COLLECTOR'S EDITION! • MORE PAGES! • BONUS COLO

A TRIBUTE TO MYSELF BY RIC FLAIR

MARCH 1995

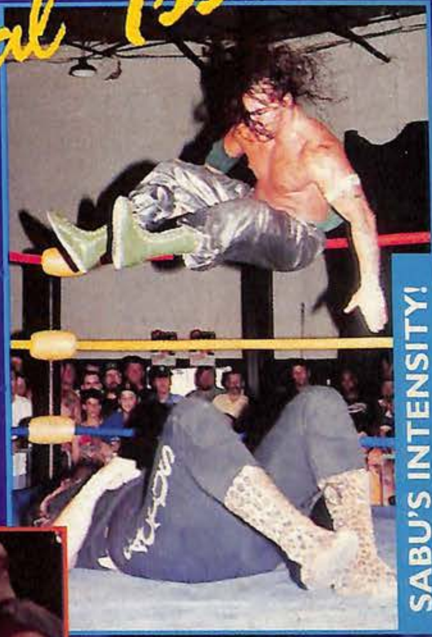
THE WRESTLER

THE Wrestler®

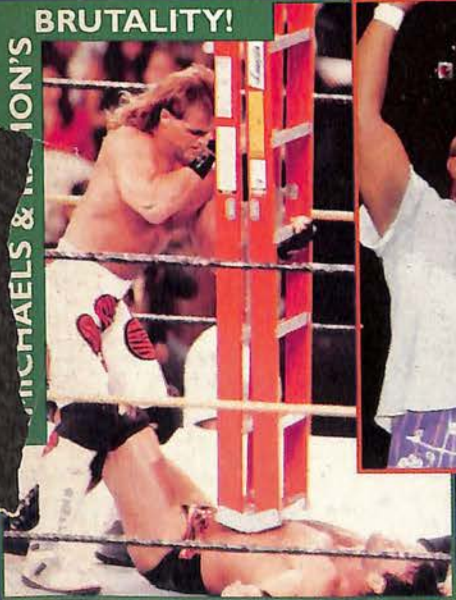
FROM THE PUBLISHERS OF PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

1994 Spectacular Special Issue!

THE YEAR IN PICTURES!



SABU'S INTENSITY!



ICHAELS & ... ION'S BRUTALITY!

HOGAN'S VICTORY!

BRET & OWEN'S TRAGEDY!

DIESEL'S IMMENSITY!

$2.95 U.S. $3.50 CANADA £2.20 U.K.

03

7 22627 00389 8

PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

THE STORY YOU WON'T GET ON TV COULD BE IN YOUR MAILBOX!

THE LEADER OF THE PACK

For over a decade, **PWI** has been bringing the wrestling arena (and the locker room) to the fans. No other wrestling magazine that covers the entire spectrum of the sport can boast of the same quality writers, editors, and photographers. **PWI** is acknowledged worldwide as the best!

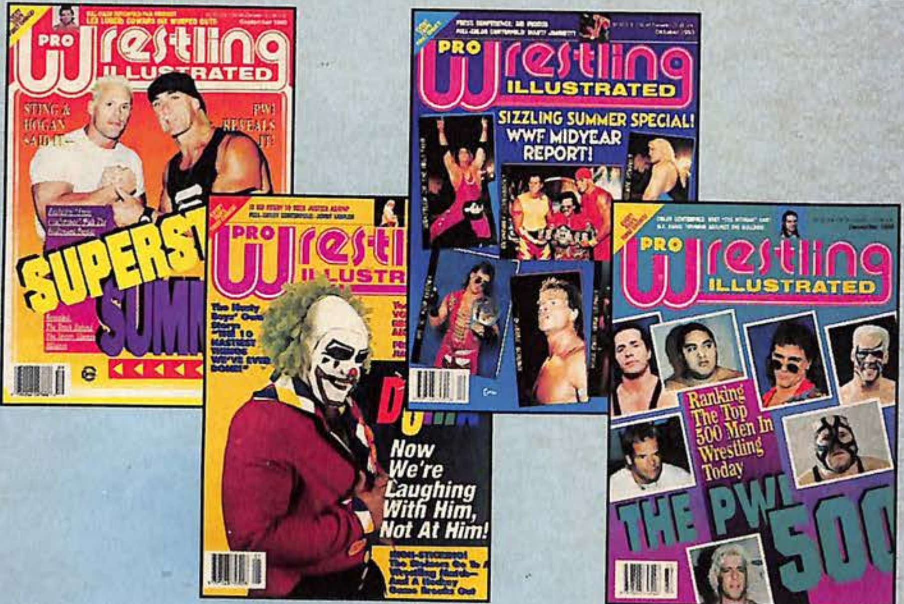
EXCLUSIVE FEATURES

PWI's award-winning staff is always where the action is, providing the most complete coverage of wrestling available anywhere. From the great staff of writers, through the dramatic peak-action photographs, to the magnificent full-color centerfold—**PWI** brings you wrestling action at its best. **PWI** includes exclusive features you can't get anywhere else: Our comprehensive "Arena Reports" . . . Eddie Ellner's lively and controversial "Off The Top Rope" . . . An incisive "Press Conference" with one of the sport's top stars . . . Extensive "Ratings" . . . "Scouting Reports" . . . "Time Capsules" . . . And don't forget: Your subscription to **PWI** includes the spectacular 100-page year-end issue, priced at $3.50 on the newsstand (if you can find it!) and any other specials we produce throughout the year.

THREE WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE

- Now available for the first time, a six-issue subscription to **PWI.** Six power-packed editions will be delivered right to your door for just $15.
- Order a 12-issue subscription to **PWI** and receive two issues free! You'll get 14 issues for just $30—a 17% savings off the regular newsstand price.
- To receive the greatest savings, order a 24-issue subscription to **PWI** at the low price of $60 and receive six issues free! That's 30 issues for the cost of 24, a 25% savings off the regular newsstand rate!

Don't miss a single issue! Subscribe today!



Yes, I would like to subscribe to PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

☐ I am enclosing $15 for a six-issue subscription

☐ I am enclosing $30 for a 12-issue subscription with the understanding that I will receive two issues free for a total of 14 monthly issues

☐ I am enclosing $60 for a 24-issue subscription with the understanding that I will receive six issues free for a total of 30 monthly issues

Please indicate method of payment

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

☐ MasterCard # _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Expiration Date: ___/___
MO/YR

Send to: London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Name ______________________________

Address ______________________________ Apt. ______

City ______________________ State ______ Zip ______

Price offer good in U.S. and Canada only. Foreign countries: $19.80 for six issues ($31.50 airmail); $39.60 for 12 issues ($68.50 airmail); $79.20 for 24 issues ($142.50 airmail). International money order in U.S. funds only for orders outside U.S. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

3034/10-94

THE Wrestler

CONTENTS/MARCH 1995

4 **YOUR LETTERS**
Hogan's Headache; King Backlund; Move On, Sting

6 **WHAT'S HAPPENING**
The latest news from around the wrestling world

8 **NO HOLDS BARRED with David Rosenbaum**
Just when you thought Owen Hart couldn't stoop any lower ...

10 **BLINDSIDED by Andy Rodriguez**
Honky Tonk Man vs. Johnny B. Badd: That's entertainment!

12 **THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN**
We cheer the good and jeer the bad

14 **CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS**
Details from several recent key matches

16 **YOU ASKED US**
And your favorite superstars provide the answers

18 **INTRODUCING FRANK ANDERSSON**
An Olympic bronze medalist sets his sights on a great pro career

20 **Q & A: 911**
The 1994 *PWI* Rookie of the Year wasn't satisfied with his award

24 **X-RAY: LEX LUGER**
Our panel assesses the career of the WWF strongman

27 **1994: THE YEAR IN PICTURES**
We present the most memorable—and the most bizarre—photos of the past year in this special 23-page section

50 **HULK ORDERS DAVE SULLIVAN: DESTROY YOUR BROTHER**
Mr. Hogan knows the perfect man to eliminate Kevin Sullivan

54 **WWF '95 VS. WWF '85: WHICH IS BETTER ? OUR EXCLUSIVE COMPUTER PPV DECIDES A WINNER!**
Read how the "New Generation" matches up with the old guard

58 **A TRIBUTE TO MYSELF by Ric Flair**
The "Nature Boy" can't say enough about his spectacular career

62 **TITLE-BOUND AGAIN! MEN ON A MISSION REGAIN MO-MENTUM**
The big men are back and aiming for the WWF tag title

66 **WRESTLING SCRAPBOOK**
Highlights from mat action over the past quarter-century

80 **SPOTLIGHT ON RANDY SAVAGE**
Looking back at the career of the "Macho Man"

82 **BEYOND THE SQUARED CIRCLE**
What your favorites do when they're not in the ring

84 **OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS**
The sport's most comprehensive rankings

86 **RATINGS ANALYSIS**
The weak WWF tag team crop and the new NWA

STANLEY WESTON
Founder

PUBLISHER ... Stuart M. Saks
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER ... Craig Peters
SENIOR EDITOR ... Bill Apter
MANAGING EDITOR ... David Lenker
ASSOCIATE EDITOR ... Brandi Mankiewicz
ART DIRECTOR ... Barbara Ann Brady
ART ASSOCIATES ... Tina Filice
... Jon Gerner
... Joseph Kalman
... Alex Krasnopolsky
... Lisa Ryan
SENIOR WRITERS ... David Rosenbaum
... Andy Rodriguez
... Chris Bernucca
... Eddie Ellner
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR ... Bob Eddy
PRODUCTION ASSOCIATES ... Cliff Campo
... Bernard V. Thompson III
... Ron Frankhouser
PHOTO EDITOR ... Jason Ross Lavin
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS ... Matt Brock
... Elizabeth A. Hunter
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT ... Ed Emelett

VICE PRESIDENT/MARKETING
David Gerhardt

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/CIRCULATION
Kenneth J. Gudaitis

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
Robert Nucci

SUBSCRIPTION SERVICES
Nancy Parsons
P.O. Box 910
Fort Washington, PA 19034

COVER PHOTOS:
Hulk Hogan-Ric Flair by John S. Pithers
Bob Backlund by Koichi Yoshizawa

Next issue on sale February 14, 1995

THE WRESTLER (ISSN: 1052-0899) is published monthly by London Publishing Co., 7002 West Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Second-class postage paid at Rockville Centre, NY, 11571 and additional post offices. POSTMASTER: Send change of address to "THE WRESTLER," P.O. Box 910, Ft. Washington, PA 19034. Single copy price $2.95 ($3.50 in Canada, £2.20 in U.K.) Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. **FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES:** (310) 572-7272. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable News Company Inc., 11 West 42nd St., New York, NY 10036. International distribution (excluding U.K.) by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St, New York, NY 10010. U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England.
Printed in U.S.A.

YOUR LETTERS

Send letters to: YOUR LETTERS, Box 1148, Ft. Washington, Pennsylvania 19034

HOGAN'S HEADACHE

Hulk Hogan doesn't want any part of Big Van Vader ("Vader's Heavenly Plan To Send Hulk Hogan To Hell!", Winter 1994), and the reason is as simple as one word: Yokozuna. On the whole, Hogan's "bigger is better" motto has served him well throughout his career.

But on the occasion when he would come across someone bigger than himself, he was in serious trouble. Andre the Giant, The Undertaker, and Sid Justice have all given Hogan fits, and Yokozuna all but shattered the myth of "Hulkamania" in the WWF last year. Vader, easily the world's most athletically gifted and just plain *brutal* super heavyweight, wouldn't be content to just pin Hogan's shoulders to the mat—he wants them mounted above his fireplace.

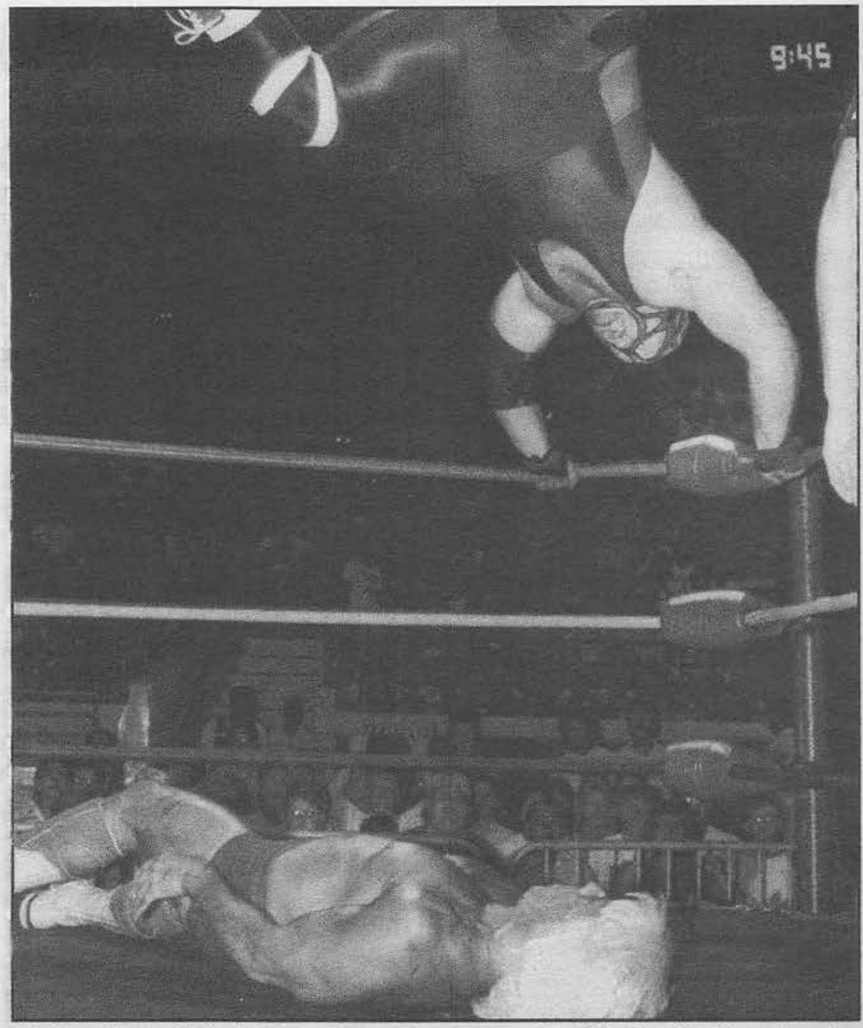
So Hogan will likely revert to his old two-defenses-a-month WWF schedule. It wouldn't surprise me to see Hogan petition to get Ric Flair reinstated, just so he can put off a bout with Vader. Well, Mr. Yellow-and-Red, you can run, but you can't hide. Soon, Big Van Vader will reclaim his rightful place as WCW's top gun. But look on the bright side, "Huckster," you'll be able to park in handicap spaces for the rest of your life!

HARRY SIMON
Las Vegas, NV

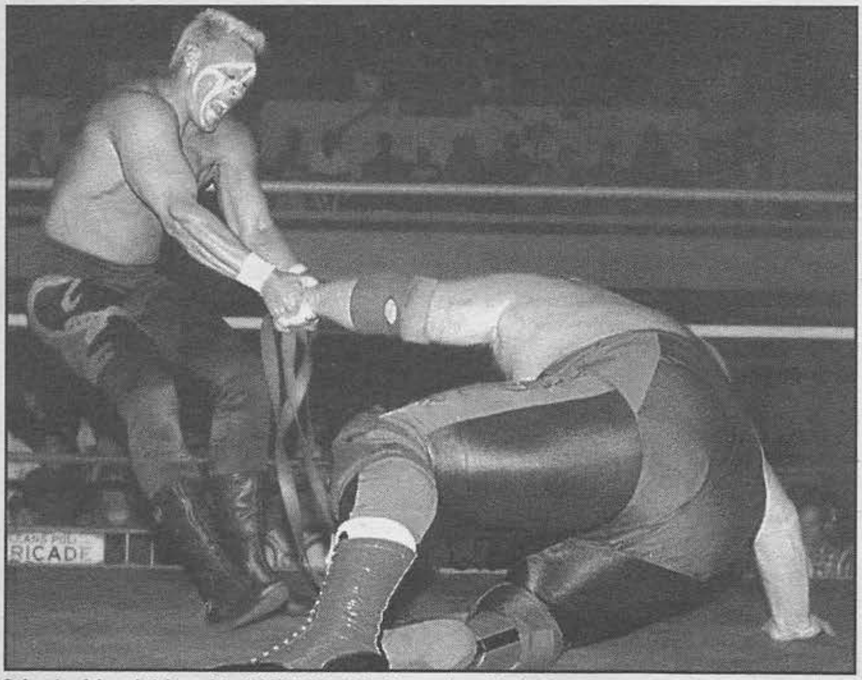
KING BACKLUND

I can picture Bob Backlund as the natural successor in the "King" tradition. Remember the crown that was proudly worn by Harley Race (probably the greatest ever to wear the crown), Haku, Hacksaw Duggan, and "Macho Man" Randy Savage? All of these men were great wrestlers as well as great "Kings" and I feel it would be appropriate that Backlund should get the title of the "King" now.

Bob Backlund may be a little



Big Van Vader dished out numerous beatings to Ric Flair in 1993-94 and reader Harry Simon thinks he could do the same to Hulk Hogan. He thinks the "Hulkster" is doing anything he can to avoid facing Vader.



Sting's friendship with WCW World champion Hulk Hogan may actually hurt him, according to reader Michael Reed. He feels the "Stinger" will have trouble getting title shots and suggests he move to the WWF.

demented, but then so were a lot of the greatest European kings throughout history!

CRAIG McLEAN
Junction City, KS

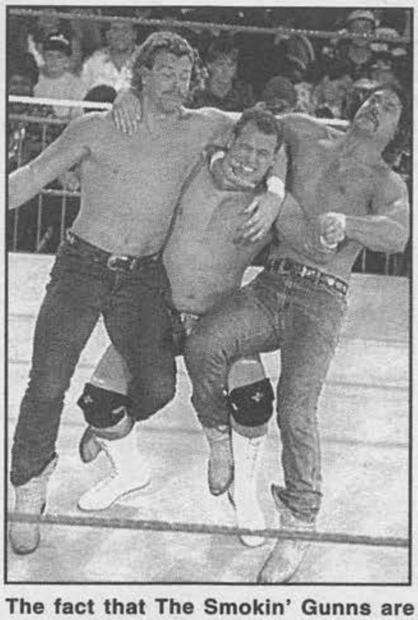
MOVE ON, STING

I am a big fan of the WWF and WCW. They have some of the greatest wrestlers in the sport. I think, however, that Sting could take his skill to even greater heights by signing a contract with the WWF. Sting has already beaten the best wrestlers WCW has to offer. I figure that if he can beat a colossal beast like Big Van Vader, just imagine what he could do against a beached whale like Yokozuna. And let's face it, Hulk Hogan is in the spotlight as WCW World champion; the "Stinger" is never going to see another title shot as long as Hogan remains in that federation. Sting, make the move!

MICHAEL REED
Anderson, IN

TAG TEAM DILEMMA

I would like to know why the WWF can't find any quality tag teams. I mean, when The Smokin' Gunns and The Bushwhackers are the top contenders to the World tag team championship, there are problems. Right now, primarily single wrestlers are teaming up and quickly becoming contenders in a division that is weak just so they can increase their chances to win a belt. If they continue to do this, legitimate singles contenders will be lost forever.



The fact that The Smokin' Gunns are among the top contenders to the WWF World tag team title is alarming to reader Nick Dulmes. He suggest the WWF sign some quality teams, pronto.

How has WCW gotten so many decent tag teams such as Paul Orndorff and Paul Roma, Marcus Alexander Bagwell and The Patriot, Harlem Heat, The Nasty Boys, and others? The only team worth watching in the WWF is The Headshrinkers.

The bottom line is that the WWF must sign at least one (and preferably more), quality teams in order to keep good tag team competition alive.

NICK DULMES
Sheboygan, WI

STILL GRIEVING

I was saddened to learn that yet another Texas wrestling promotion—Global—had folded, leaving the Sportatorium empty once again ("Blindsided," Winter 1994). This is a depressing day in Dallas, but the truth is that the whole thing could have been avoided.

I feel that wrestling in Texas can never thrive without the Von Erichs, and that's hard to do since they *were* Texas wrestling. Their battles with The Freebirds, Gino Hernandez, and Percy Pringle's men were classics. It is hard to forget about the tragedy of that family and move on. It is still fresh in our minds. The healing process takes years, and the heart of Texas is still wounded from our tragic losses.

If promoters come in here billing themselves as the second coming of World Class, heralding the Von Erichs as gods, and try to achieve greatness on the coattails of both World Class and the Von Erichs, they are going to flop. In Texas, we know that there will never be another World Class or Von Erich tradition, and anyone who tries will just fold.

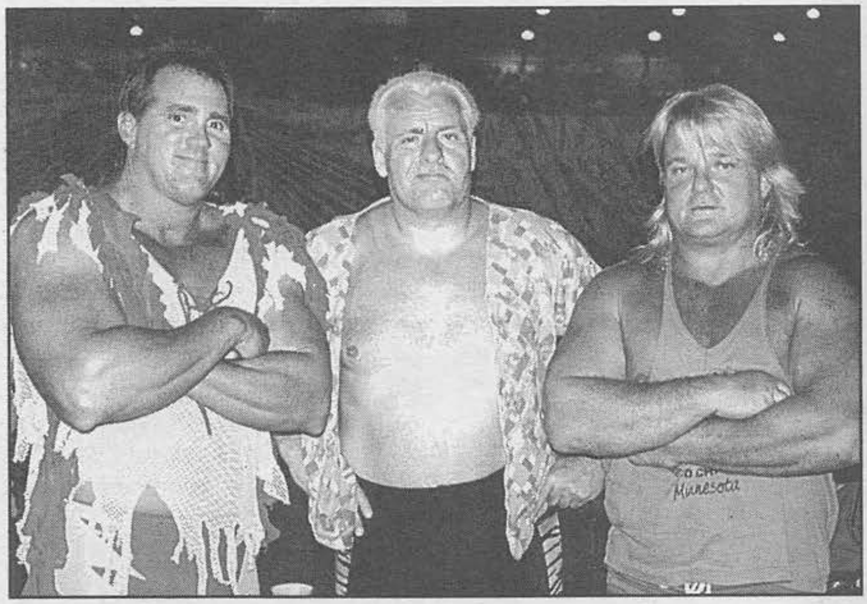
Promoters, please stop trying to give us a low-budget sequel to a great legend. We will reject every attempt wholeheartedly, until our

(Continued on page 76)

WHAT'S HAPPENING

By Bill Apter

DIESEL'S EIGHT-SECOND victory over **Bob Backlund** for the WWF World title was the shortest match in WWF history. The shortest bout on record before that was **King Kong Bundy's** nine-second win over **S.D. Jones** at WrestleMania I. Diesel has told reporters, "I intend to make each defense very short. A jackknife, and it's all over!"



Will Greg Valentine be the next member of WCW's Faces of Fear? Brutus Beefcake met with "The Hammer" and Johnny Valiant—who managed them to the WWF World tag title in 1985—after a recent independent card.

The seven-foot champion also went on record to say that he intends to be a fighting champion, just like **Bret Hart** was. So, **The Undertaker**, **Razor Ramon**, Backlund, and maybe even "The Hitman" are looking for chances to win the championship. Winning the belt from such a big man will be no easy task. The WWF had a huge champion in **Yokozuna**, but no one as tall as Diesel ever defended the belt.

Diesel not only became the WWF World champion by beating Bob Backlund, he did it in record time for a WWF match. The seven-footer vows to be a fighting champion who takes on all challengers.

As we went to press, a tug of war of sorts was taking place in WCW. **Randy Savage** is in the middle, with World champion **Hulk Hogan** on one side, and **Kevin Sullivan** tugging on the other.

"Savage would be a real asset to my **Faces of Fear**," Sullivan barked. "He hates Hogan so much. I know he does. You can see it in his eyes. When Savage joins me, we will finally destroy Hogan."

Hogan responded this way: "Any problems Randy and I had are behind us now. I'm hoping he'll help me take care of business against **Avalanche**, **The Butcher**, and Sullivan. Together, we'll send them runnin'!"

Don't expect Sullivan to stop his

Dick Slater and Terry Funk were both bloody messes after a bunkhouse death match against The Headhunters in Japan. Funk needed stitches to close the wound on his right arm, but loved every minute of the bout.

recruiting efforts with Savage. He and **Brutus Beefcake** are combing the independent circuit looking for old Hogan rivals to join their mob. **Greg Valentine's** name has come up, as have several others.

New WWF World Women's champion **Bull Nakano** told our Tokyo-based correspondent, **Koichi Yoshizawa**, "I finally proved to all that **Alundra Blayze** was protected by the promoters in America. In our first match in Japan, I destroyed her. Now, full of shame, she returns to her country, a beaten and demoralized woman!" Nakano pinned Blayze on November 20 at the Tokyo Dome to capture the belt ... Our WWF sources say that their are more people in the family of hog farmer **Henry Goodwin** (who recently joined the WWF) who want to compete in the federation. The WWF might turn into hillbilly heaven!

WCW talent scout **Mike Graham** says he believes that young heartthrob **Alex Wright** "has a very promising future in our sport. The guy is an incredible talent and seems to be improving every time he gets into the ring."

Now that she manages **Harlem Heat**, **Sherri Martel** wants to be called "Soul Sister Sherri." I wish she'd settle on one name ... **Jeff Gaylord**, who is still competing in the USWA, had a tryout with WCW. No word on how well he did.

You can't keep good veterans down. **Terry Funk** and his buddy **Dick Slater** ventured to Japan recently to compete in the IWA. You won't believe what kind of match they were involved in ... or maybe you will. They clashed with **The Headhunters** in a bunkhouse death match in which they were allowed to use baseball bats wrapped in barbed-wire!

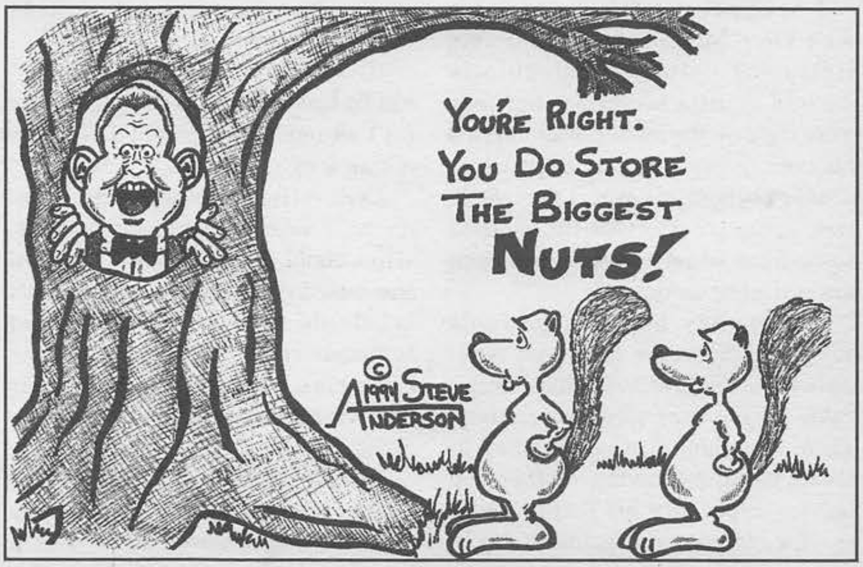
After both Funk and Slater were battered and bloody, Funk admitted, "What a great time I had. Dicky and I spilled a lot of blood, but so did The Headhunters. That's what wrestling is all about: blood and guts! To hell with the pretty boys!"

Funk also needed 17 stitches after **Headhunter Malfat** broke a glass bottle on a table and then proceeded to slice Funk's arm open with it.

Paul E. Dangerously, manager of **Sabu**, still has yet to sign **Tasmaniac**, Sabu's new tag team partner, to a contract. "I've tried," Dangerously tells us, "but the jerk—I mean the guy—doesn't understand me." Dangerously is confident that Sabu and Tas will win the ECW tag team belts from **Public Enemy**.

(Continued on page 73)

STEVE ANDERSON'S VIEW



NO HOLDS BARRED

with David Rosenbaum

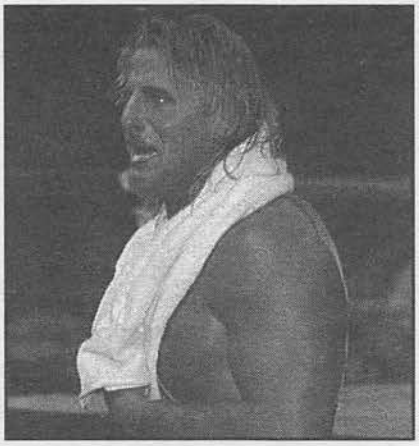
IT'S TIME FOR the good doctor to reassess his diagnosis.

I'm talking about noted sports psychologist Dr. Sydney M. Basil, whose assessment of the Bret Hart-Owen Hart feud appeared recently in one of our sister publications. Dr. Basil's conclusion: The War Between the Harts is all Bret's fault. Dr. Basil cited some psychobabble about middle-child syndrome and the spoiled younger child, then decided Bret had a responsibility to constantly nurture his younger brother.

There is egg on Dr. Basil's face after the events at the 1994 Survivor Series.

I have never been one to agree with Vince McMahon and the always ridiculous, always ridiculously dressed Gorilla Monsoon, but they were right on the money after Owen's ultimate betrayal against Bret. Vince couldn't believe his eyes. I thought he was going to cry. Gorilla babbled something about Owen being even lower than he thought.

Let me say here that Owen's actions at Survivor Series on November 23, 1994, were the most despicable I have ever seen in wrestling. There is nothing that comes close to Owen using his loving mother and father—especially his loving mother—for his own evil gains. If Owen can so blatantly use his mother, there isn't an ounce of decency left in his rotting soul.



Owen Hart pleaded with his parents to throw in the towel for his brother Bret at Survivor Series. Turns out it was all part of Owen's plan. Is there anything worse than deceiving and humiliating your own parents?

Even rulebreakers across the country were unanimous in their shock. "How could anyone do this?" the evil men asked. Even the lowest criminal in jail—the men who have committed numerous crimes against humanity—have more respect for their mothers than Owen showed on that Thanksgiving Eve.

It was despicable.

And what did Dr. Basil have to say about the situation?

"It was horrid and shocking," the doctor said. "Indeed, I must reassess my opinion of this feud, because it obviously goes much deeper than I feared. There's more here than an ordinary middle-son syndrome. Using your parents, and doing it so expertly, takes a different kind of person. Owen is exhibiting signs of schizophrenia and his poor parents are going to be the ultimate victims.

"As professionals, we're taught to distance ourselves from the emotions involved in these things. As a parent, and a son, that's difficult for me to do. Turning against your brother is one thing. Turning against a mother who loves you unconditionally is yet another. Owen used his mother. Can we imagine anything worse? Certainly, nothing I have witnessed in this mystifying sport.

"It's obvious that I missed something."

The knee-jerk reaction of Monday morning psychologists is to say that the happy Hart family obviously wasn't so happy when they were growing up, and Owen has a different view of his parents than the one he seemingly used to share with Bret. Shortly after convincing Helen to throw in the towel—an action that cost Bret the WWF World title to Bob

(Continued on page 78)

COMBINE *and* SAVE!

By taking advantage of our special combination offers, you can have all of the world's leading wrestling magazines delivered to your door and save up to 33% off the regular newsstand price!

COMBINE *and* SAVE!

		Magazines	ONE-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION # of Issues	US/Can. Price	Foreign	TWO-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION # of Issues	US/Can. Price	Foreign
DISCOUNT COMBINATION OFFER *(SAVE UP TO 25%!)*								
☐ New	☐ Renewal	THE WRESTLER INSIDE WRESTLING	24 (12 each title)	☐ $37.45	☐ $56.65 ($103.45 airmail)	48 (24 each title)	☐ $70.20	☐ $108.60 ($202.20 airmail)
SUPER SAVER COMBINATION OFFER *(SAVE UP TO 33%!)*								
☐ New	☐ Renewal	PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED THE WRESTLER INSIDE WRESTLING	36 (12 each title)	☐ $57.60	☐ $86.40 ($156.60 airmail)	72 (24 each title)	☐ $102.45	☐ $160.05 ($300.45 airmail)

☑ **Yes!** Please enter the combination subscription I have checked above. I have enclosed a check or money order for payment in full or included my credit card number to charge my purchase.

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to LONDON PUBLISHING CO.)

☐ VISA # ____________________

☐ MasterCard # ____________________

Expiration Date: _____ / _____
MO / YR

Send To: LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Name ____________________

Address ____________________

City __________ State _____ Zip _____

For orders outside the U.S., international money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

3035/10-94

BLINDSIDED

BY
ANDY
RODRIGUEZ

IF YOU SCAN this column and see The Honky Tonk Man's name come up a lot, don't worry. This isn't another Dave Rosenbaum love letter to the obnoxious, fourth-rate Elvis impersonator. Yes, I did see Honky perform live at the 1987 Slammys and I enjoyed it immensely. However, I don't make the leap of faith and conclude that HTM is the greatest wrestler since the creation of the dropkick.

Rather, I am concerned with how the feud between Honky Tonk and Johnny B. Badd ever started. Why didn't Johnny B. just laugh at Honky and walk away? And why didn't Honky just go after a bigger title than Badd's TV belt?

The answer is no mystery. This feud has nothing to do with wrestling as a sport. Neither man sees his opponent as a steppingstone to a world title. At the moment, neither is that concerned about his place in the ratings. Sure, both men have said they're committed to excellence in the ring, but their actions belie their intentions.

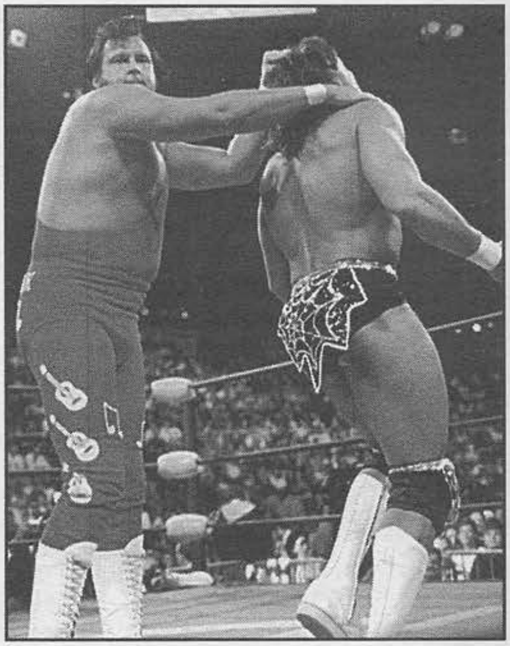
Both HTM and Badd want the phony title of "Greatest Entertainer In WCW." Each man feels that to do that, he must beat the other.

How do they define entertainment? Very broadly.

"I have too much respect for the sport of wrestling to waste time in the ring," said Badd, a former boxer. "I can wrestle any man in the world and give a good accounting of myself.

"Having said that," he continued, "I don't believe there's anything wrong with having a little fun while I'm wrestling. Giving the people a little extra for their money. There are a lot of different ways folks can enjoy themselves at a wrestling match. You can really get into a hard-fought, athletic contest, but you can also get a thrill when I make one of my flamboyant entrances. It's all part of who I am."

Honky Tonk takes it further. He demands to be taken seriously as an entertainer first, then as a professional athlete.



Honky Tonk Man vs. Johnny B. Badd

"People can make fun of my wrestling skills all they want," he asserted. "It doesn't faze me a lick, because I know what I'm capable of. But never say I'm not an entertainer. Heck, The Honky Tonk Man was born to perform! You come to any card I appear on and I'll give you the best show you've ever seen, whether you like it or not!

"Don't tell me I'm getting carried away by this," Honky continued. "I mean, look at Deion Sanders. He intercepts a pass and starts high-steppin' it 10 yards before he reaches the end zone. He's puttin' on a show and nobody calls him on it. You should treat me the same way, because just like Deion, I back it up with results. They don't call me the greatest Intercontinental champion of all-time for nothing!"

The other night I sat down and watched a videotape of a recent encounter between Badd and Honky. My intention was to focus not on the show, but on the wrestling. I wanted grappling, not glitter.

I got both, of course, but I also rediscovered that both men are excellent wrestlers. The action was intense and honest. Both clearly wanted to win the match.

A few days later I happened to mention to a WCW official that I truly was impressed with the contest. His response was a laugh and a shrug.

"Yeah, it was great," he said. "A good wrestling match. You know what they both did right afterward? Badd complained to the ring attendant about how dirty his cape was. And Honky drove everybody out of the locker room because he was trying to learn a new song."

That's HTM and JBB. That's entertainment. □

OUR TENTH BIG YEAR!

CHAMPIONS OF THE GALAXY
WRESTLING GAME

WRESTLING'S MOST POPULAR GAME

RISING SUN

THIS YEAR MARKS A MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF WRESTLING GAMES WITH THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF CHAMPIONS OF THE GALAXY! THE FACT IS THAT QUALITY LASTS. HERE'S HOW WE DO IT:

1. THE GWF IS A REALISTIC FEDERATION! Old wrestlers retire, new wrestlers enter, there are even managers! Just like a real-life wrestling federation, the GWF is always changing! New game editions come out regularly!
2. YOU'RE THE HEAD PROMOTER! You sign the matches, set up super-cards, and have tournaments for the belts!
3. THE FANS LOVE IT! What other wrestling game has inspired international fan clubs and yearly game conventions?
4. IT'S EASY TO PLAY! Champions of the Galaxy is not a complicated game. Just use the wrestler cards, dice, and action charts!
5. YOU CAN CREATE YOUR OWN WRESTLERS! Special game cards allow you to create wrestlers and pit them against superstars of the future!
6. YOU CAN PLAY ALONE OR WITH FRIENDS! Either way is fun!
7. MATCHES TAKE PLACE IN REAL TIME! A match might take five seconds or a half hour!
8. THE WRESTLERS ARE REAL PEOPLE! Description Booklets will tell you about each wrestler, including their friends and their biggest feuds!
9. THERE'S NO WRITING OR COMPUTATIONS! The game is nonstop action.
10. RISING SUN SAYS SO! Care to argue?

GWF Feud
RISING SUN vs SPLATTER

How about this for opposites! **Rising Sun** is a martial arts, Japanese-style sensation, while **Splatter** is a sick and demented brawler and slasher! Help us celebrate our tenth anniversary by ordering wrestling's most popular game and see who wins this big feud!

SPLATTER

Check the box for the game editions you want to order:

- ☐ **CHAMPIONS OF THE GALAXY. FIRST-TIME BUYERS – HERE'S WHERE TO START!** First edition. Features Star Warrior and Thantos. Includes everything you'll need to play the game, such as dice, action charts, instruction booklet, and 24 wrestler playing cards. Games should be bought in order, beginning with this edition .... **$15.00 Total.**
- ☐ **INVASION 2088.** Features Bishop Hell .... **$12.00 Total.**
- ☐ **INVASION 2089.** Features the Galactic Punisher. .... **$12.00 Total.**
- ☐ **INVASION 2090.** Features Cosmic Forces. .... **$12.00 Total.**
- ☐ **WAR GAMES 2091.** Features Mayhem. .... **$12.00 Total.**
- ☐ **WAR GAMES 2092.** Features Chaos. .... **$12.00 Total.**
- ☐ **WAR GAMES 2093.** Features Alpha Force. .... **$12.00 Total.**
- ☐ **SUDDEN DEATH 2094.** Features the New Order. .... **$12.00 Total.**
- ☐ **SUDDEN DEATH 2095.** Features Raven. .... **$12.00 Total.**
- ☐ **REVOLUTION 2096.** Features Splatter. .... **$12.00 Total.**
- ☐ **REVOLUTION 2097.** Features Holocaust. .... **$12.00 Total.**
- ☐ **REVOLUTION 2098.** Features Colossus. .... **$12.00 Total.**
- ☐ **CIVIL WAR 2099.** Features Thunder. .... **$12.00 Total.**
- ☐ **CIVIL WAR 2100.** Features Rising Sun. .... **$12.00 Total.**

BEST DEALS — First-time buyers — Get more for your money

☐ 2 game editions for $23 — SAVE $ 4 ☐ 4 game editions for $38 — SAVE $13

☐ **All 14 game editions for $96 — SAVE $75**

Please send the game editions I've marked to:

Name ____________________

Address ____________________

City/State/Zip ____________________

Mail this coupon with a check or money order to:

Filsinger Games
P.O. Box 3493
Jamestown, NY 14702-3493

Allow up to 4 weeks for delivery. Write to Filsinger Games for a free flier containing more information.

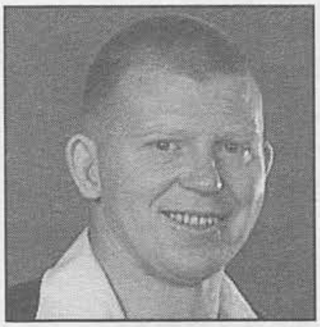
****

ORDERS FROM OUTSIDE THE U.S. ARE WELCOME!

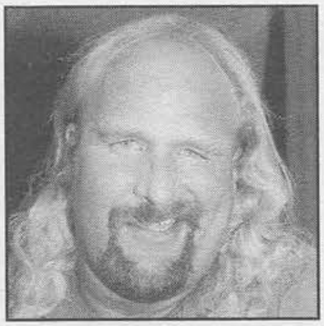
All foreign orders must be paid for in U.S. currency. Overseas orders, add an additional 15% for postage and handling. New York orders add 7% sales tax.

Thumbs Up

Each Issue, *The Wrestler* will praise the noteworthy and damn those who violate the honor of wrestling. The praiseworthy receive a Thumbs Up, the disgraceful are marked with a Thumbs Down. Here is this month's roll of honor and shame.



Thumbs Up to Bob Backlund. Even though he is a rulebreaker, he beat Bret Hart fair and square for the World title. Sure, Owen Hart deceived his mother, Helen, into throwing in the towel, but Backlund caught Bret in a legal chicken wing, and Bret was making no headway in his attempt to escape. It was probably only a matter of minutes before Bret succumbed anyway. The irony is unavoidable: Backlund lost the belt in 1983 when Arnold Skaaland threw in the towel for him. What goes around comes around. Backlund ended up losing the belt three days later to Diesel, but his winning it at age 45 was still remarkable.

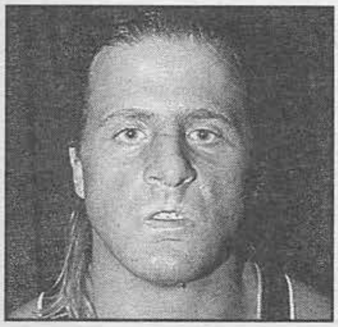


Thumbs Up to Dave Sullivan. Hulk Hogan's number-one fan is doing quite well on his own. While still supporting the "Hulkster," the younger Sullivan is proving he, too, is a capable wrestler. Dave has dominated his feud against his older brother. Always humble, he says he's only trying to help Hogan. Don't look now, Dave, but you're climbing in the WCW rankings. He cracked the WCW top 10 in November and is a wrestler on the rise. We don't think Dave will ever wrestle Hogan for the World title, but that U.S. belt is within reach … if Dave can bring himself to wrestle Hacksaw Duggan. We'd like to see it happen.

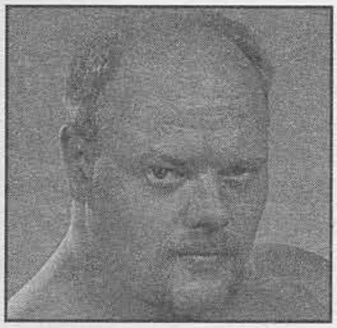
Thumbs Up to The Undertaker. Not too long ago, most WWF pay-per-views ended with Hulk Hogan celebrating in the center of the ring. Things have changed. Hogan is now the WCW World champion and WWF fans are searching for a new hero. How about The Undertaker, who keeps closing PPVs in grand fashion? He did it at Survivor Series by locking Yokozuna in a casket and then standing in the middle of the ring with his arms raised. Undertaker has a strange way of driving fans crazy. And he has become an invincible fan favorite who comes up with incredible rallies just when things look bleakest. Remind you of anyone?

Thumbs Up to Randy Savage. Taking potshots at Vince McMahon isn't a difficult thing to do. Stars love leaving the WWF and then firing a few barbs at the federation head. Randy Savage could have done it when he left the WWF in November, but he didn't. "I had some great times in the WWF," Savage said. "I'm leaving on the best of terms. I want to thank the WWF for all they have done for me." Savage had no personal disagreement with McMahon. He left because he couldn't come to terms on a new contract and thought a change of pace would be good for him. Savage made a career move and he did it with class.

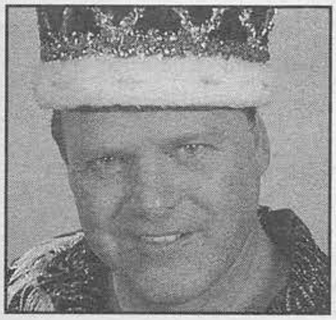
Thumbs Down



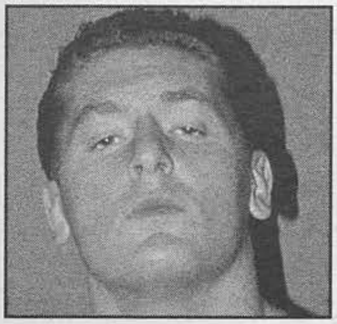
Thumbs Down to Owen Hart. Is there any more despicable crime than betraying your own brother? How about betraying your parents? Owen Hart's actions at Survivor Series were among the most disgraceful we have seen. Owen's jealousy against Bret is understandable. "The Hitman" is one of the most accomplished wrestlers in the world; Owen wishes he were. Stu and Helen Hart have done nothing but love Owen, and how were they repaid? Helen was humiliated on pay-per-view TV. She was used as a pawn in Owen's war against Bret. We wouldn't blame her if she never spoke to Owen again, but she will. She's a parent.



Thumbs Down to Tony Anthony. The Smoky Mountain heavyweight champion made a foolish remark recently. Told that Bryant Anderson, Ole's son, wanted a shot at his belt, Anthony snapped, "Maybe he should see if he can beat Kimberly first." Bad move, Anthony. If Bryant is anything like his father, he'll be one of the toughest men in SMW and, soon afterward, WCW or the WWF. Toughness and wrestling skill run in the Anderson blood and there haven't been any losers in that clan. Bryant has risen quickly in SMW and looks ready for Anthony. As for the "Dirty White Boy," he should know when to keep his big mouth shut.



Thumbs Down to Jerry Lawler. It was appropriate that Lawler's Thanksgiving holiday began with a humiliation at the hands of six midgets. Lawler's feud against Doink and his midget pals has been an embarrassment to a fine wrestler. Although Lawler has had his share of bizarre feuds—the one with comedian Andy Kaufman immediately comes to mind—this was absolutely ridiculous. With Sid Vicious still the USWA heavyweight champion, why is Lawler wasting his time in a meaningless WWF feud? Hightailing it from the little guys might have been the lowlight of Lawler's career.



Thumbs Down to Lord Steven Regal. The two-time former WCW TV champion is about to find out just how much he is going to miss manager Sir William, who recently returned to the USWA as a wrestler. Regal is a fine athlete who always relied too much on William's interference. "I'll do better on my own," Regal said. We're not betting on him. Regal is in a slump and he has recently dropped out of the WCW title picture. With the WCW talent pool improving every week, Regal is in serious danger of getting lost in the shuffle. This is no time for Regal to go without a manager. But stupid is as stupid does.

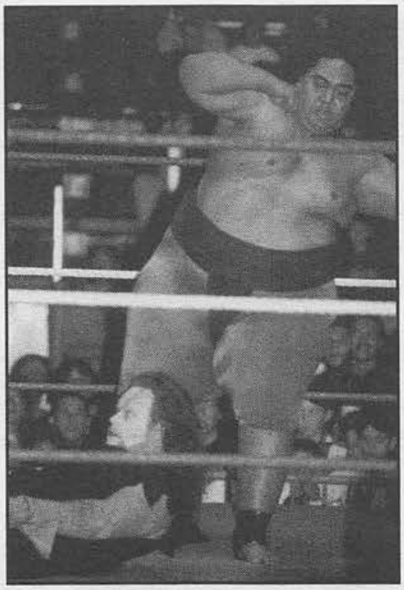
CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

Pittsburgh, PA *(Correspondent—Travis Herzig):* The first half of a double main event was a casket match pitting The Undertaker against Yokozuna. From the onset of the match, The Undertaker was in control. Both men battled back and forth for a good part of the match, but Yokozuna missed two great opportunities during the match.

First, he had The Undertaker sprawled out near the ringpost and he didn't capitalize on the opportunity. Instead, he allowed Undertaker a chance to recover. Moments later, Yokozuna shoved The Undertaker inside the casket, but was unable to close the casket all the way; one of his arms dangled outside the casket. The Undertaker struggled, forced the casket open, and tossed an unsuspecting Yokozuna inside the casket to win the match.

In other matches: WWF World tag team champions Diesel & Shawn Michaels defeated The Headshrinkers ... WWF World Women's champion Alundra Blayze beat Bull Nakano ... Mabel defeated Kwang the Ninja ... Jeff Jarrett defeated Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly ... The Bushwhackers defeated Well Dunn ... Bret Hart beat Jim Neidhart by disqualification.

Kansas City, KS *(Correspondent—Ronnie Buckster):* It was fitting that Dustin Rhodes and Sting



Yokozuna got in his kicks against The Undertaker during a recent casket match, but couldn't get him completely inside the casket. Undertaker recovered and ultimately prevailed.

squared off against Arn Anderson and Bunkhouse Buck inside a steel cage, because there is quite a history of hatred between the combatants. Those bad feelings were evident during this violent bout.

Rhodes and Anderson squared off in the ring first, with "The Enforcer" getting the upper hand early on; Dustin was able to battle back, however, and take control of the match. Anderson retreated to his corner to catch a breather. It helped him. He quickly renewed his attack on Dustin by slamming him into the cage and pummeling him with a flurry of punches.

It didn't take long for the match to get out of hand after that.

Both Buck and Sting entered the ring and the four proceeded to pound each other. The referee finally regained control with Rhodes and Buck in the ring. The two traded blows and Rhodes whipped Buck hard into the ropes, where he collided with the steel cage. Rhodes then used his flying bulldog headlock, slamming Buck's head to the mat. He rolled the brawler over for the three-count to win the match.

In other bouts: Big Van Vader defeated The Guardian Angel ... U.S. champion Hacksaw Duggan defeated Steve Austin ... Dave Sullivan defeated Kevin Sullivan by disqualification ... The Honky Tonk Man wrestled WCW TV champion Johnny B. Badd to a 10-minute time-limit draw ... The Nasty Boys defeaed Paul Orndorff & Paul Roma.

Philadelphia, PA *(Correspondent—Kelley Bernikie):* Smoky Mountain Wrestling visited the City of Brotherly Love as Chris Candido, managed by Tammy Fytch, faced Tracey Smothers in a $2,500 ladder match. Candido attacked his rival before the bell, though Smothers was

(Continued on page 74)

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD FANS!

If you would like your area of the country represented in these reports, while also being officially credited with your own by-line, send us reports of the matches you attend. You will have the thrill of seeing your name in an internationally known magazine while at the same time helping to improve the quality of wrestling in your area. So why not give it a try? You will be glad you did!

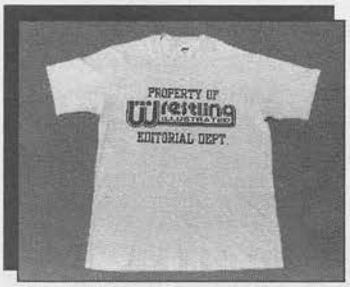
Send your reports to:
CORRESPONDENTS EDITOR, BOX 1148, FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

WHY HAVEN'T YOU TAKEN THE PWI CHALLENGE?

NOW AVAILABLE IN THE U.K.

WIN $100 CASH PRIZE

PLUS: Each month, three runners-up will receive a free *PWI* T-shirt!



Take the PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED CHALLENGE and go head to head with the editors of PWI in the trivia match of your life! If you can answer seven consecutive questions correctly—without getting pinned—you can earn the title "Undisputed Wrestling Trivia Champ" and win $100 or a PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED T-shirt!

CALL NOW!

1-900-288-7526

0891 299 760

$1.49 per minute. Kids, get your parents' permission.

This service is available on both rotary-dialed and touch-tone phones.

ALL-NEW QUESTIONS!

If you can answer the following questions, you could be the next $100 winner!

What manager brought Hulk Hogan to the WWF in 1979?
1) Capt. Lou Albano
2) The Grand Wizard
3) Fred Blassie
4) Arnold Skaaland

Which of the following wrestlers did Lex Luger *not* defeat to capture one of his four U.S. heavyweight titles?
1) Nikita Koloff
2) Dusty Rhodes
3) Michael Hayes
4) Stan Hansen

True or False: Dusty Rhodes was once managed by rulebreaking manager Gary Hart.
1) True
2) False

How did Ric Flair severely injure his back in October 1975?
1) Airplane crash
2) Ring injury
3) Automobile accident
4) None of the above

How did you do? If you're up for the challenge and want to put your wrestling knowledge to work, call now and go for the $100!

WRESTLING CHALLENGE RULES & REGULATIONS
Call as often as you like. The contest begins Nov 1, 1994, and runs through January 31, 1995. There is no age restriction to participate. The charge for each call is $1.49 per minute. The contest is sponsored by Advanced Telecom Services and London Publishing Co. in connection with Pro Wrestling Illustrated. No purchase necessary to participate. Void in MN, NJ, LA, GA, and where prohibited by law. All unclaimed prizes will be awarded via second-chance drawing. The odds of winning are dependent on the number of entries. Complete rules and mail-in entries are available by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to PWI TRIVIA, P.O. Box 625, Devon, PA 19333. To win, answer seven consecutive trivia questions correctly and you automatically qualify for the monthly drawing of one $100 winner. From Nov 1, 1994, until January 31, 1995, a total of 9 PWI T-shirts (retail value $19.95 each) will be awarded. London Publishing Co. will select the winners. No substitutions allowed.

2860/09-94

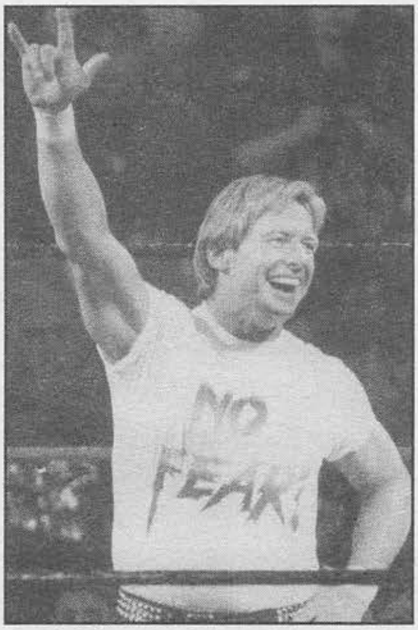
You Asked Us

Here's the monthly feature that YOU get to write! It's your chance to have a top wrestler answer YOUR questions! Only the best questions will be answered, so put on your thinking caps and come up with some good ones! Address your questions—and who you would like to have answer them—to:

YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER,
Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034.

Q: "I have a question for "Rowdy" Roddy Piper: Since your last match at the 1994 WWF King of the Ring turned out so well for you, I was wondering if you were considering wrestling again in the near future. All of your fans in Indiana miss you!"—Michael Reed, Anderson, IN

A: **"It's nice to hear that I am missed, Michael, but this 'Hot Rod' has no immediate plans to return to the ring," replied Piper. "I taught that spineless jellyfish Jerry Lawler a lesson at King of the Ring, and that's exactly what I set out to do. Now look at him. He can't even handle Dink and Wink and Pink. Lawler talks a big game, but when it comes time to fight, he comes up short. My Hollywood commitments keep me very busy, Michael. But you never know: One day I might be back to rule the WWF again!"**



Roddy Piper hasn't been in a wrestling ring since he beat Jerry Lawler at the 1994 King of the Ring and says he has no plans to return. He also notes that Lawler has his hands full with Doink and his midget friends.

***

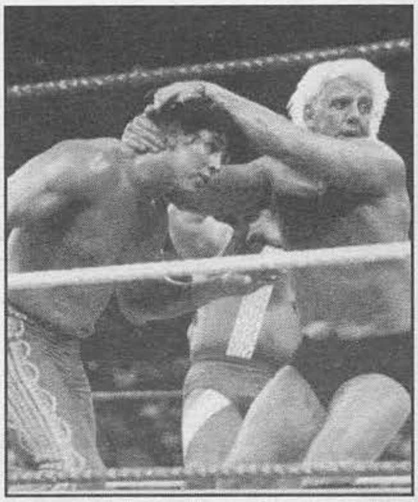
Q: "My question is for The Rock 'n' Roll Express: For years, you guys absolutely hated Jim Cornette and his men. Now I'm hearing that he will to manage you two. I think you're setting yourselves up for big problems. What do you think?"—Jean Westwood, Boise, ID

A: **"Let's get one thing straight, Jean," said Morton. "Robert Gibson and I do not think of ourselves as Jim Cornette's friends. I don't think that will ever happen in this lifetime. Our deal with Cornette is a temporary one. Robert, Cornette, and me all hate The Gangstas. We don't like the way they're trying to take over Smoky Mountain and we don't like seeing them with the Smoky Mountain tag team belts around their waists. Once me and Robert get the belts back, our deal with Cornette might be over. He's done too many things to us over the years for us to forgive and forget. Even with Cornette in our corner, we keep one eye on him at all times!"**

***

Q: "I'd like to ask Ric Flair a question: Mr. Flair, I'm really sorry about what happened to you at Halloween Havoc. Here in the Empire State, we remember all your epic battles and we will never forget your unbelievable performance at the 1992 Royal Rumble. Are you really going to leave this great sport for good?"—Morgan Fairchild, Albany, NY

A: **"Well, Morgan, you pose a good question and it's nice to hear that I still have fans out there," said Flair. "But my answer to your question is yes. Even though I lost to that goon Hogan at Halloween Havoc, I signed the contract and I have to abide by the rules. But let me tell you this: I will be back one day, maybe not in the ring, but I won't let fans forget that I am the greatest of all-time, no matter what those punk 'Hulkamaniacs' say! In time, everyone**



Ric Flair turned in an incredible performance to win the 1992 Royal Rumble and is glad to know at least one fan fondly remembers it. The "Nature Boy" wants to put to rest any rumors that he is planning to come out of retirement.

(Continued on page 72)

ROB FEINSTEIN PRESENTS . . .

OFFICIAL ECW, SMOKY MT. AND USWA VIDEO TAPES

ALL VIDEO TAPES ARE

$20

THAT INCLUDES SHIPPING TOO!!!

ALSO for only

$20

UNCUT TV EPISODES INCLUDING 4 TO 5 DIFFERENT SHOWS FOR A PARTICULAR MONTH and ALL MAJOR SHOWS!!!

ECW

WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE

Main Event
Arn Anderson & Terry Funk
vs.
Sabu & Bobby Eaton

First time ever
SINGAPORE CANEING MATCH
Sandman & Woman
vs.
Tommy Ciaro & Peaches
Kevin Sullivan vs. Jimmy Snuka
plus an 8-man match

$20 each

HOSTILE CITY SHOWDOWN

First time meeting of
Cactus Jack vs. Sabu
ALSO
The Funks vs. Public Enemy

CANE ON A POLE
Sandman vs. Tommy Ciaro

. . .PLUS MORE!!!

$20 each

HEATWAVE '94

Featuring the infamous
Barbed Wire Massacre Match
THE FUNKS vs. PUBLIC ENEMY

ALSO

SABU vs. SHANE DOUGLAS

DUELING CANES
SANDMAN vs. CIARO
and the titanic collision of
911 *vs.* MR. HUGHES
. . .plus more!!

$20 each

ECW TV SHOWS

Featuring
SABU
CACTUS JACK
TAZMANIAC
2 COLD SCORPIO
CHRIS BENOIT
PUBLIC ENEMY
SHANE DOUGLAS
TERRY FUNK
. . .AND MORE!!

USWA See the only live for broadcast Saturday Morning TV Show in America featuring Jerry Lawler, Sid Vicious, Brian Christopher, PG13, and others.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN
Watch wrestling the way it use to be, the way you like it! Featuring the Rock 'n Roll Express, the Gangstas, Brian Lee, Chris Candito, Tracey Smothers, DVB, Thrill Seekers, & others!

PLUS OVER 1200 OTHER TAPES TO CHOOSE FROM!!!

Order the 500 page catalog of all tapes for $12

SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:
ROB FEINSTEIN
865 Green Ridge Circle • Langhorne, PA 19053
or CALL (215) 752-4279

INTRODUCING FRANK ANDERSSON

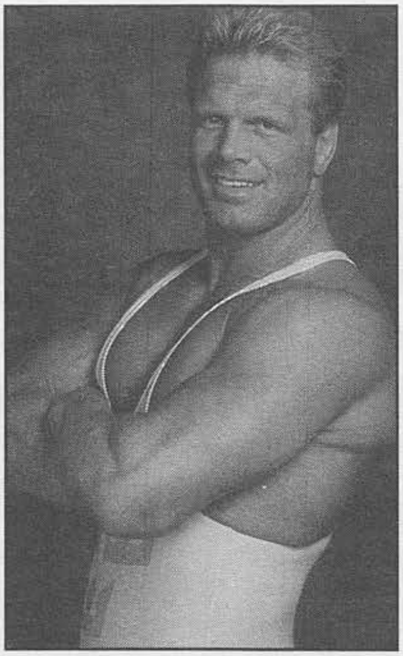
By Brandi Mankiewicz

TAKE A LOOK at Frank Andersson's resume and you might wonder why he even bothered to become a professional wrestler. As an amateur, he won a bronze medal in the Olympics (1984), three world championships in Greco-Roman wrestling (1979-1981), 12 different Scandinavian titles, two European championships, two American national titles ... the list goes on and on. What else is there to accomplish?

But anyone who knows Frank Andersson well knows he isn't one to live in the past. He is always looking to accomplish more.

"As a child, I dreamed of being an Olympic champion, and after much hard work, I realized my dream," said Andersson. "I won everything there is to win on the amateur level. Now I want to be the best in professional wrestling."

Andersson, a Gothemberg, Sweden, native, believes that the same hard work and determination that brought him so much success on the amateur level will lead him to a world titles in the professional ranks. After several years of training with Brad Rheingans and several years competing in independent promotions, in Japan, and in Europe, Andersson debuted in WCW in January 1994, and amazed his opponents with his superb technical skills and finesse.



Frank Andersson had a stellar amateur wrestling career that was highlighted with his winning a bronze medal in the 1984 Olympics. A pro since 1990, Andersson is starting to impress WCW fans with his skills.

When he's not wrestling, he can often be seen peaking out of the dressing room area, observing the mat action.

"I am glad that I came to WCW before Ric Flair retired," he said. "He was a favorite wrestler of mine when I was growing up. I followed the AWA a lot, but Flair was the best I ever saw."

The 6'2", 245-pound Swede also admired Arn Anderson for his tenacity and technical ability. He may not have the "Nature Boy's" charisma or "The Enforcer's" toughness, but he has adapted to the pro style quite well. He has such a wide variety of maneuvers that it is difficult for even the craftiest of veterans to corner him. And when the time is right, Andersson will hit him with one of his numerous crushing suplexes and finish him off.

"The suplex is my favorite maneuver," explained Andersson. "I have mastered numerous variations of what many people consider a simple move. I spend hours developing new versions. When used correctly, a suplex is a devastating maneuver. It does not matter if my opponent weighs 300 pounds or more—I can take him out with a suplex."

Winning a bronze medal in the Olympics is something only a select few amateur wrestlers will ever do. Frank Andersson did it, and now he looks forward to professional gold

Andersson may spend an enormous amount of time perfecting his suplexes, but they are only a small part of his wrestling repertoire. He doesn't particularly like to brawl and says the simplest moves can be the most effective. Power bombs, moonsaults, and "Frankensteiners" may be the maneuvers of the '90s, but Andersson loves armbars and shoulder and ankle holds and swears he knows how to make foes submit to them.

When they don't work, he learned, it's okay to get mad and throw a punch.

"I believe that hard work is the key to success," Andersson said. "I work out every day. I lift weights, run, and train in the ring. I want to work hard for every victory and every title I win. The way I do things might not always look great and exciting, but no one works harder than me."

This strong work ethic shows in the ring ... sometimes too much. Andersson admitted he was overanxious early in his pro career and still is during some matches. He tends to try to put opponents away too early and wastes a lot of energy. But when he wrestled superstars like Masa Saito and Ron Simmons in Japan, he learned that he couldn't afford many mistakes.

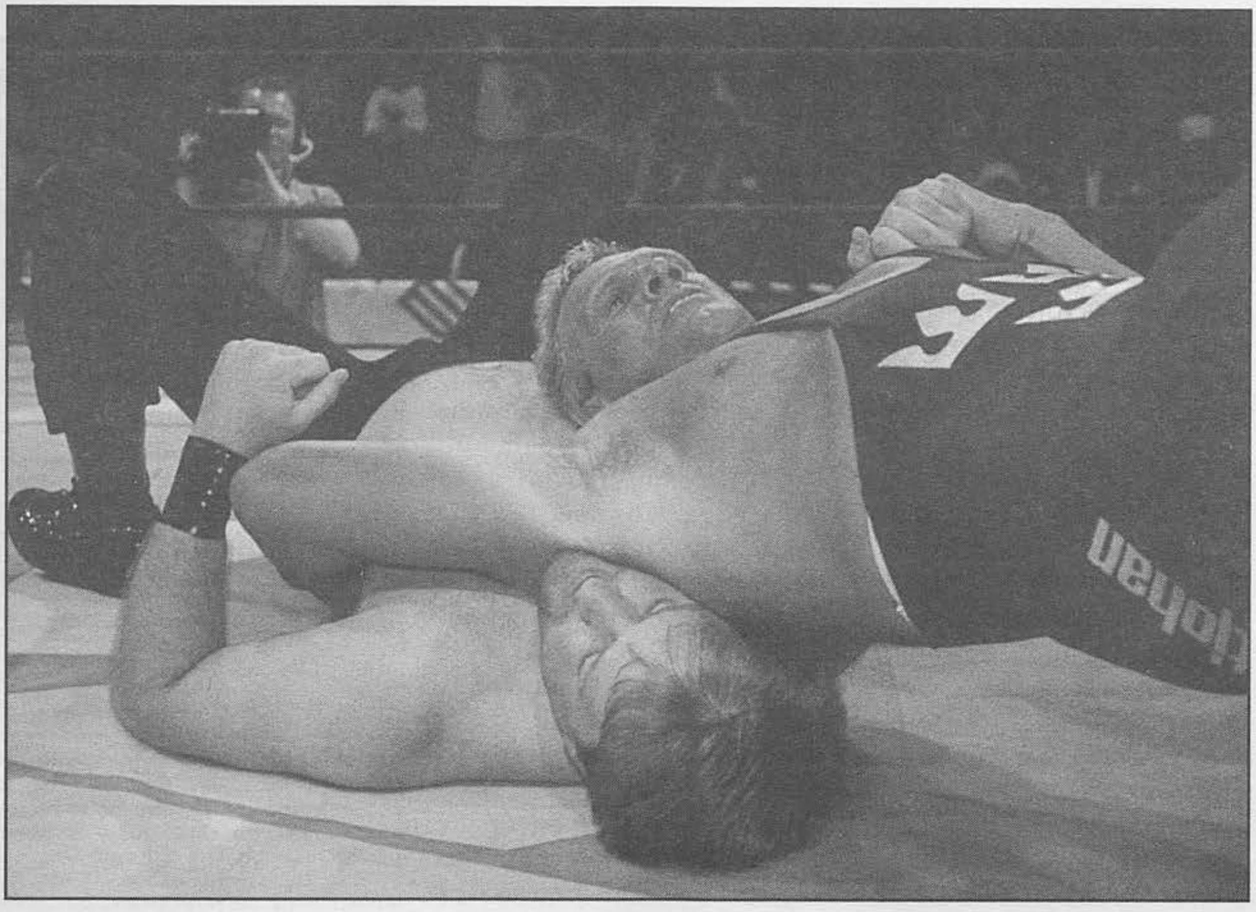
It's ironic that Andersson, a no-nonsense athlete who cares only about wrestling well and winning, is trying to make a name for himself in an age in which image is everything. He sees all the clowns, cowboys, and other bizarre figures in the sport and longs for the old days ... when the best *wrestlers* got all the attention.

"It is the quality of wrestling that counts," he said. "There are so many big men in the sport who I could wrestle circles around."

He might get a chance to prove that soon. By all accounts, he is getting better with every match. Andersson himself thinks 1995 will be his year.

"I didn't become a pro wrestler just to be good," he said. "I became a wrestler because I want to be the best. I will settle for nothing less."

With ability, determination, and so much international experience, there's no telling how good this former Olympian could be. □



Andersson is known as a master of many different variations of the suplex, but he is also a superb technical wrestler. He uses many moves to pin opponents, including a vertical suplex that he turns into a bridge.

Q&A

Each month, *THE WRESTLER* will present a "Question and Answer" forum with an important figure in the wrestling world. It is your chance to meet wrestling's biggest stars as they answer the questions uppermost in fans' minds

Q: Congratulations on being voted *PWI* Rookie of the Year. That's quite an honor.

A: Honor this, Rodriguez! You would think I'd be happy about that. Get a clue, man!

Q: Why aren't you impressed?

A: Two reasons. First of all, I don't really care what the fans think. They're all brain-dead idiots, and they proved it because if they were smart they would've voted me not Rookie of the Year, but Wrestler of the Year. Can you think of anybody who had a better year than I did?

Q: Well, there's Bret Hart, Hulk Hogan, Newt Gingrich …

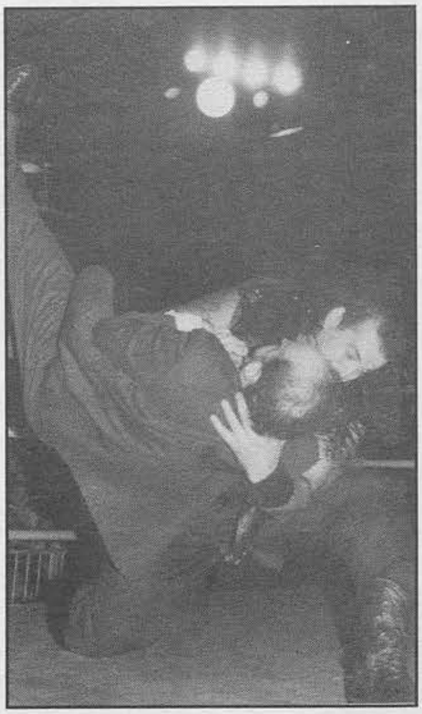
A: Who?

Q: Never mind. Look, you had a great year, but …

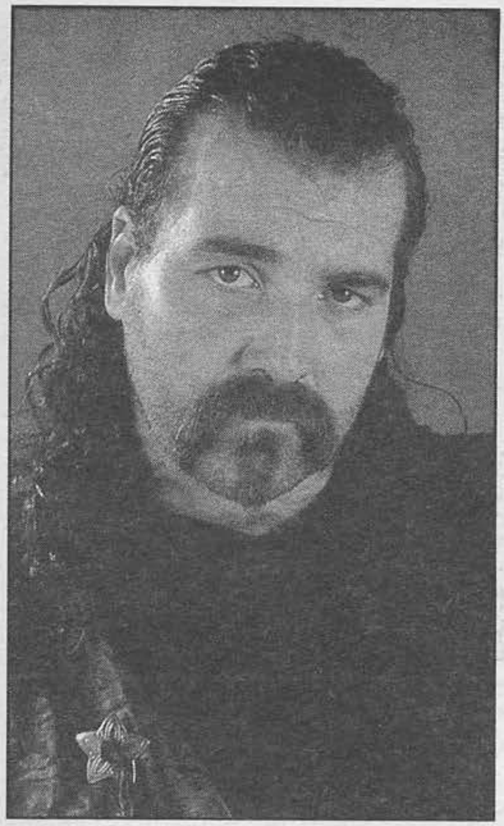
A: But nothing! And don't get cute with me, Rodriguez, or I'll toss your butt outta here! Ever been on the receiving end of a chokeslam?

Q: I get the message. Speaking of the chokeslam, it is one of the most devastating moves I've ever seen. How did you come up with it?

A: I've been in a lot of fights. I've had battles that are much worse than anything you'll ever see in a wrestling ring. When your back's against the wall, you have to come up with something that gives you the edge. For me, it's the chokeslam. It isn't fancy, but it works. And I'm tired of people who say the choke-slam's my only move. So what if it is? Look at my record. Look at all the so-called scientific masters who couldn't win if their lives depended on it. I'll put up my skills against any man in this sport. Any man! I mean it! I back it up, too.



911 must feel pretty secure with his position in ECW; the man he is chokeslamming just happens to be the same man who signs his paycheck, ECW President Tod Gordon. Gordon, incidentally, has threatened 911 with the suspensions serveral times, but never followed through.

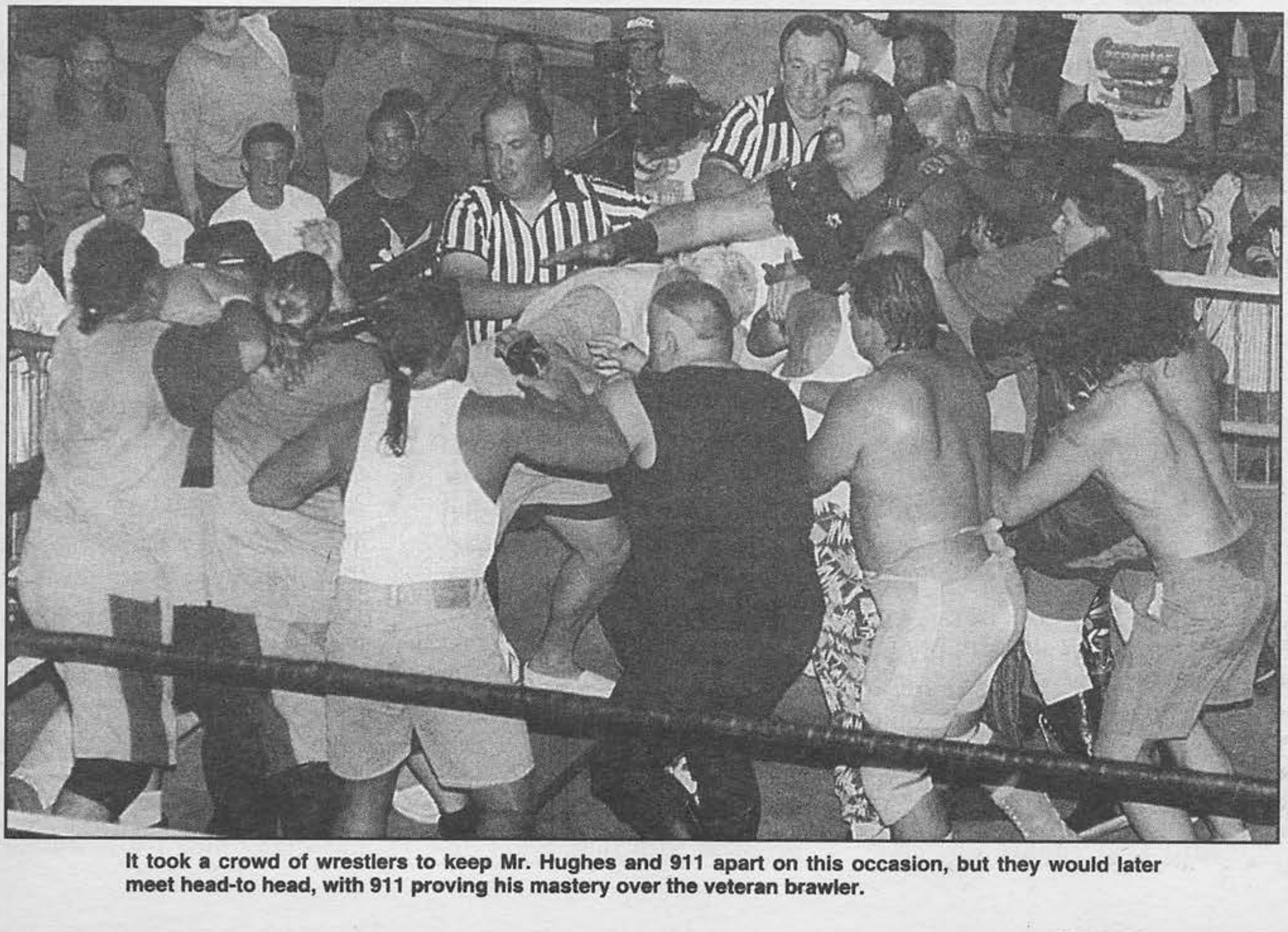


911

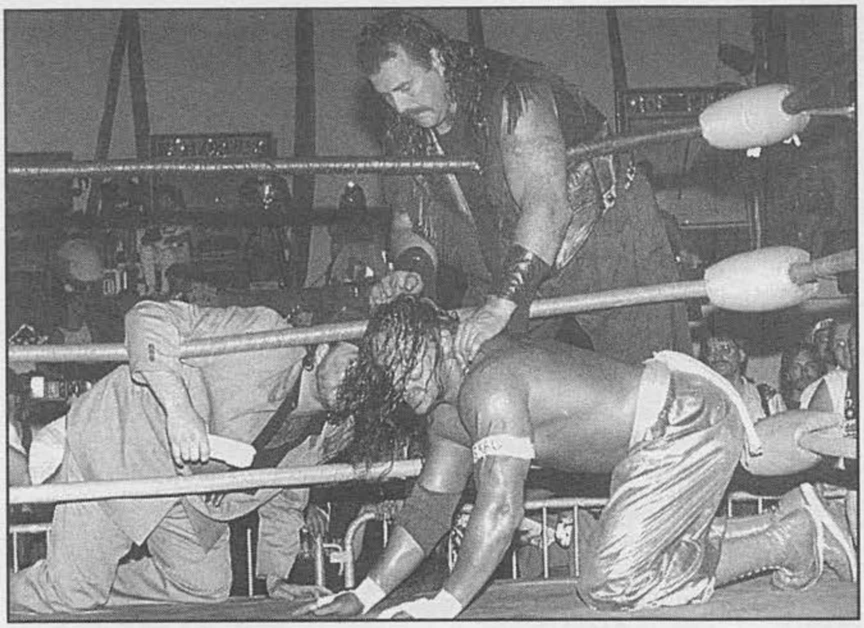
WHEN THERE'S AN an emergency, most people call 911 for help. Paul E. Dangerously, on the other hand, calls 911 to make things worse. 911 is a mountain of a man. At 6'7", 310 pounds, he may be the most feared competitor in Extreme Championship Wrestling, and that is quite an accomplishment. Aside from his awesome strength, 911 utilizes the chokeslam, a brutally effective maneuver. Some critics argue the chokeslam is his only maneuver, but all agree that for him, it works very well.

Dangerously brought 911 into ECW as Sabu's personal handler, but it soon became apparent that 911 was very much his own man. The burly brawler continues to second Sabu, but their relationship has become much more tense in past months.So impressive was 911 in his rookie campaign that the readers of ***Pro Wrestling Illustrated*** *voted him 1994 Rookie of the Year. Unimpressed with the honor, 911 presses ahead with his campaign of terror. Mr. Hughes is a target. So is Shane Douglas. Actually, almost every wrestler in ECW is on-guard against the big man's wrath.*

Senior Writer Andy Rodriguez traveled to Philadelphia to speak with 911, who apparently hates reporters about as much as he does his opponents.



It took a crowd of wrestlers to keep Mr. Hughes and 911 apart on this occasion, but they would later meet head-to head, with 911 proving his mastery over the veteran brawler.



With manager Paul E. Dangerously looking on, 911 comforts his stablemate Sabu. From the sounds of things, it wouldn't be too surprising to see 911's hands wrapped around the other side of Sabu's neck in the near future.

Q: You've given the chokeslam to several referees, and even the president of your federation, Tod Gordon. That's more than backing it up; that's taking it too far.

A: Gordon and the others deserved exactly what they got! I don't apologize for any of it. If Gordon is so concerned, why doesn't he suspend me, or even kick me out of ECW? He wouldn't do a damn thing because he knows I put people in the seats. The fans may be dumb, but they know good wrestling when they see it. You've heard the cheers I get.

Q: ECW fans don't surprise me anymore. However, I am surprised by the way you've handled Mr. Hughes.

A: You shouldn't be. Hughes is good, damn good. He's strong as a bull and twice as mean. But I'm just that much better. He used to mouth off about how he was gonna "shut that rookie up." He had this big rep from WCW and he was gonna shove it down my throat. Never happened. I threw it right back in his face. I think he's had enough of me. He's ready for some lesser competition, and I'm ready to move up.

Q: Looks like you're trying to move up at the expense of Shane Douglas.

A: For starters. Douglas cost me the NWA title. I had [2 Cold] Scorpio beat in that semifinal. Douglas made me lose my cool. Maybe to him the NWA belt's a piece of garbage, but what right does he have to screw it up for me? I can't wait to catch that punk in a chokeslam. I guarantee he isn't gonna be ECW champion much longer.

Q: You may guarantee that, but you're not getting the title shots, Sabu is. He's in a much better position to make good on your promise.

A: That's cool. I don't have a problem with that. Sabu deserves the big matches. He's a maniac, he's the best. I'd be very happy if he took the title from Douglas. But I deserve shots, too. I proved months ago that I should be contending for the belt.

Q: Who do you think is keeping you from the title shots?

A: Gordon, for one. He doesn't want me representing ECW. Like Douglas is some great role model, right? There are a lot of people here who don't want to see me do well. They're afraid of me. I could sit here all day and name names, but that wouldn't do any good. These guys better just wise up and let the inevitable happen. I will win the ECW championship, and I will become the greatest wrestler in the history of ECW. No, wait a minute. I already am the greatest!

Q: Is it possible that Dangerously or Sabu are holding you back?

A: Is it possible? Sure, anything is possible. Anything is possible when jealousy starts to ruin a good thing.

Q: So you do blame them.

A: Look, I have a lot of respect for both Paul E. and Sabu. Paul E.'s one of the top minds in this business. He proved it when he signed me up. He put a lot of trust in me when he asked me to look after Sabu. I thank him for that. But Paul has to realize I'm not in this sport just to make him and Sabu look good. I have my own career to look after. For whatever reason, Paul feels threatened by that. He thinks I should tow the line more often. Well, for a long time I was willing

to go along with anything he said, because a lot of it made sense. But now I have to start thinking about what's best for me. And if what's best for me isn't what's best for Paul E. and Sabu, too bad.

Q: Sounds like you're on the verge of a breakup with Paul E.

A: If it happens, let it. I'd like to keep going with these guys, but I don't care about stepping on any toes. I don't need a manager or a teammate. I'd be happy if every single guy in this sport were against me. It's simpler that way. You don't have to worry about getting stabbed in the back.

Q: You said before Sabu is a maniac. Is he a bigger maniac than you?

A: The difference between me and Sabu is that Sabu goes all-out 100 percent of the time. He doesn't know when to stop, when to conserve himself. That's why he needs handlers. I know how to point him in the right direction. I won't take anything away from his natural ability, but he owes a lot of his success to me. People might look at me and think I'm completely nuts when I'm going off on some poor slob, but I'm always in control of my actions. Yeah, I lose my temper, just like I did that night with Douglas. We all lose our temper once in a while. The thing is, I can brawl and think at the same time. Sabu can't, not by a long shot.

Q: Would you wrestle Sabu?

A: I'll wrestle anybody who gets in my way. I'm still not totally convinced Sabu—or even Paul—is stopping me from anything. But if I find out they're conspiring against me, they'll pay big-time. I don't care about the past. I don't care about saving friendships. All I care about is winning, and titles. Paul and Sabu have to realize I'm gonna be a huge success in this business—bigger than I am now—with or without them. If they're smart, they won't stand in my way.

Q: At this point, I can't believe you'd stick with them.

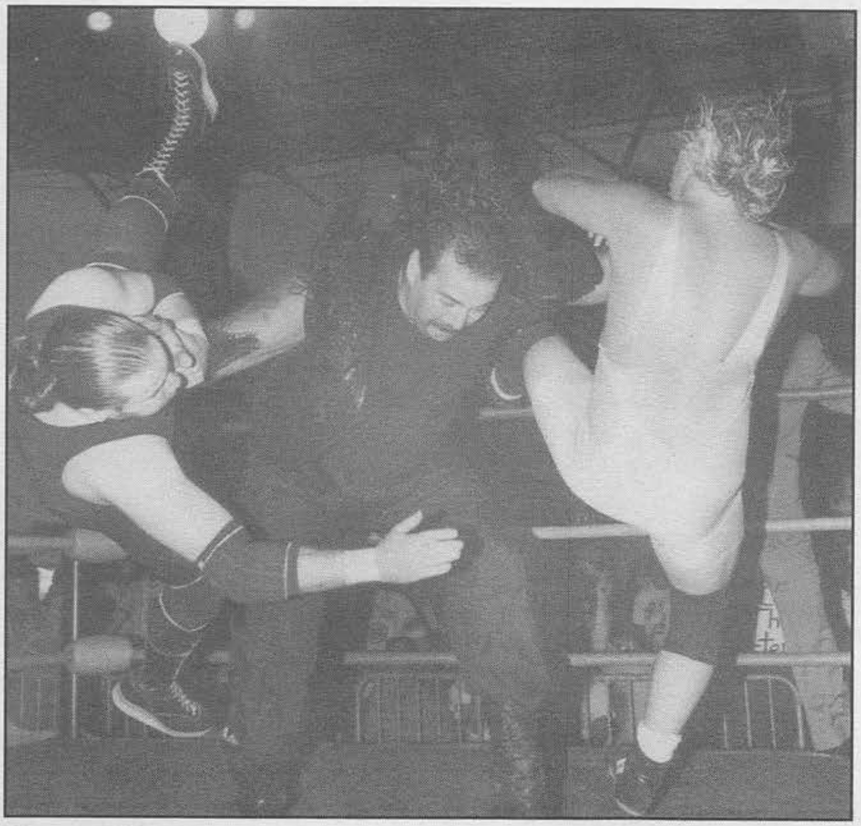
A: I don't give a crap about what you think, Rodriguez. I'm even wondering now why I let you in here.

Q: I don't wonder. I think you're sending a message to Paul E.

A: I talked too much about Paul E. today. The only message that matters is that I'm here, I'm making a lot of trouble for a lot of people, and I plan on being around for a long, long time. It's all right here in ECW, but I'll be ready to move on soon. I mean, I can't keep beating the same guys over and over again. I always need a challenge. Hughes is history; Douglas will be soon. Sabu? No predictions, but he could be next. Next year, the idiots'll vote me that Wrestler of the Year award, 'cause they won't have any choice. All these so-called world champions have no idea what they're about to face.

Q: I suspect they're finally paying attention.

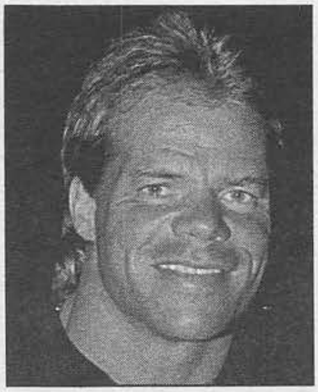
A: Like what you think counts. Get outta here! □



What could be better than a chokeslam? Why, a double-chokeslam, of course. 911's victims are the grossly overmatched Donn E. Allen and Chad Austin.

THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

X-RAY



LEX LUGER

Each month THE WRESTLER'S panel of experts will offer candid opinions of one of wrestling's stars. Whether an up-and-coming youngster or an established superstar in his own right, our panel will always be frank and honest without fear of reprisal

Lex Luger has long been accused of not fully taking advantage of his great physical skills, but many members of the "X-Ray" panel feel he will do it in the years to come.

CAPT. LOU ALBANO
"I'm tired of hearing bad things about Lex Luger. I tell you, Lex is a fine man. He proved it to everybody when he didn't sell out to Ted DiBiase. The Captain likes a man who has some integrity, and Lex has plenty, brother. He's a great role model. Everybody gets on him because he hasn't won a title in the WWF, but look at his record. He has beaten Yokozuna, Crush, Tatanka ... he's doing fine. Lex will be one of the best in the world for a long time to come!"

Capt. Lou Albano has led 13 tag teams—most recently The Headshrinkers—to a record 17 WWF World tag team titles.

KILLER KOWALSKI
"The Lex Express tour, the red, white, and blue outfits, the patriotic attitude—it's all great stuff, isn't it? Ha! What has Lex Luger accomplished since he turned fan favorite in the WWF? Zilch. He isn't tough anymore. He's afraid what people will think of him if he breaks a rule. His biggest mistake was when he dropped Bobby Heenan as his manager in 1993. He needs a Heenan or a Cornette to help him with strategy. He's getting nowhere on his own."

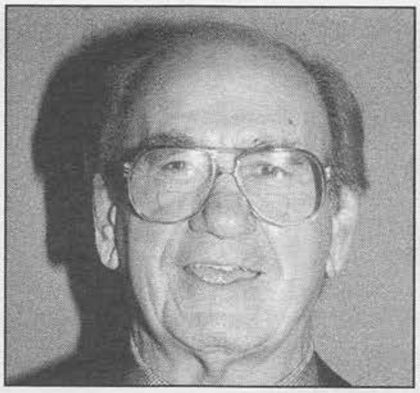
Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rulebreakers in the sport's history, runs a wrestling school in Reading, Massachusetts.

DORY FUNK JR.
"I was among the many people who thought *a lot* of Lex Luger when he made his debut back in 1985. He had everything: size, strength, determination. I thought he was the kind of guy who could win five or six world titles. Now here we are, 10 years later, and he has one. When I watch Luger now, I see the same wrestler I saw in '85. Same moves, same strategy. He needs to stop worrying about his physique and focus on becoming a better overall wrestler."

Dory Funk Jr. held the NWA World championship from 1969 to 1973. He still wrestles from time to time.

FABULOUS MOOLAH
"With that wonderful body of his, I can see why Lex is so popular with the female fans, darlin'. And I think Luger is a better wrestler now than he was three or four years ago. I'm just not sure if he knows what he wants. He was after the World title for a while, but then he got sidetracked in some silly feuds. I think now is the right time for him to make another run at the World title. If he doesn't allow himself to be distracted, he could win it."

Fabulous Moolah, the finest woman wrestler in history, held the World title for 28 years. She trains wrestlers in Columbia, South Carolina.



LOU THESZ
"I never could figure out Lex Luger. As far as ability goes, Luger matches up well with almost every other great wrestler in North America. But you have to question his desire and his commitment. It sounds like a broken record, but a man of his skills shouldn't go three years without winning a title! A guy like Diesel, who I think has less talent, won two in the last year! Luger needs to get serious about his wrestling. He's still in the prime of his career."

Lou Thesz held the NWA World title six times during his fabulous 50-year career. Many consider him the greatest all-around wrestler ever.

GORDON SOLIE
"I think too much has been made of Lex Luger's failure to win big matches in the last year. Even back in the beginning of Lex's career, I noticed he had an identity crisis. He really wasn't sure if he wanted to be a rulebreaker or fan favorite. I think he has finally settled on a career as fan favorite. He looks so much more relaxed these days. That's good to see. I predict he will be one of the world's dominant wrestlers in the second half of this decade."

Gordon Solie has expertly analyzed pro wrestling on television for 35 years. He periodically appears on WCW broadcasts.

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

UPDATED EVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY NIGHT

HOTLINE

When it comes to wrestling, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* magazine has all the inside information you want and it's only a phone call away.

If it happens in the ring, the locker room, or on the road, you'll hear it here first.

To get all the breaking stories from every federation, call the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Hotline now and you'll be the first to learn about ...

Exclusive news from behind the scenes
Upcoming events
Up-to-date results from around the world
Title changes and transactions
Pay-per-view reports
Wrestler of the week

Plus ... Tell the editors of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* what you want to see in the magazine. Dictate a letter to the Editor-in-Chief. Selected letters will be printed in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated.*

CALL NOW

IN THE U.S., 1-900-884-4PWI
IN THE U.K., 0891 299 712

This service is available on both touch-tone and rotary-dial phones.

*Cost per minute in the United States is $1.49 per. Cost per minute in the United Kingdom is 36p cheap rate and 48p at all other times, incl. VAT.

Kids, get your parents' permission.
BCM Box 6424, London WC1N 3XX

IN THE U.K., 0891 299 712
IN THE U.S., 1-900-884-4PWI

2074/01-94

1994 THE YEAR IN PICTURES!

LOOK BACK AT 1994 and you'll probably remember it as the year Hulk Hogan took WCW by storm, winning the World title in his first match in the federation. It was also the year Hogan and Ric Flair rekindled a feud that began in the WWF several years ago.

The "Hulkster" was the clear-cut winner in almost all of those battles as he sent Flair into retirement with decisive victory at Halloween Havoc in October.

In the WWF, it was the year the Hart family was torn apart. Owen turned against his older brother Bret and turned his back on the rest of his family ... with the exception of his demented brother-in-law Jim Neidhart. But for all the problems Owen caused, he wasn't able to beat Bret for the WWF World title. He certainly had his share of chances, though.

It was also the year in which an aging superstar (Bob Backlund) returned to prominence, only to be toppled by an emerging seven-foot powerhouse (Diesel) before he had the chance to really celebrate his World title victory.

1994 was a breakthrough year for Eastern (make that *Extreme*) Championship Wrestling. Some of the wildest, bloodiest, most violent matches of the year were contested in Tod Gordon's Philadelphia-based promotion. And ECW fans loved every minute of the carnage!

Other independents had their moments as well. Sid Vicious choke-slammed his way to a title in the USWA and might finally be back for good this time. Smoky Mountain and AAA cards also featured plenty of action.

But we're calling this 23-page section "The Year In Pictures," not "The Year In Wrestling." In addition to presenting photos of some of the major news stories in wrestling in 1994, we've also included some of the stranger—and memorable—photos. After all, in 1994, we saw a figure skater become a wrestling manager, an "Animal" become an actor, several prominent wrestling figures have brushes with the law, and many a wrestler try to climb the ladder of success.

It was a crazy year, no question about it. Definitely a year worth looking back at. We have some great memories of 1994 and hope you enjoy the photos we have selected for "The Year In Pictures."

1994 THE

Meet the new Hulk... not the same as the old Hulk...

one world title won (WCW's),

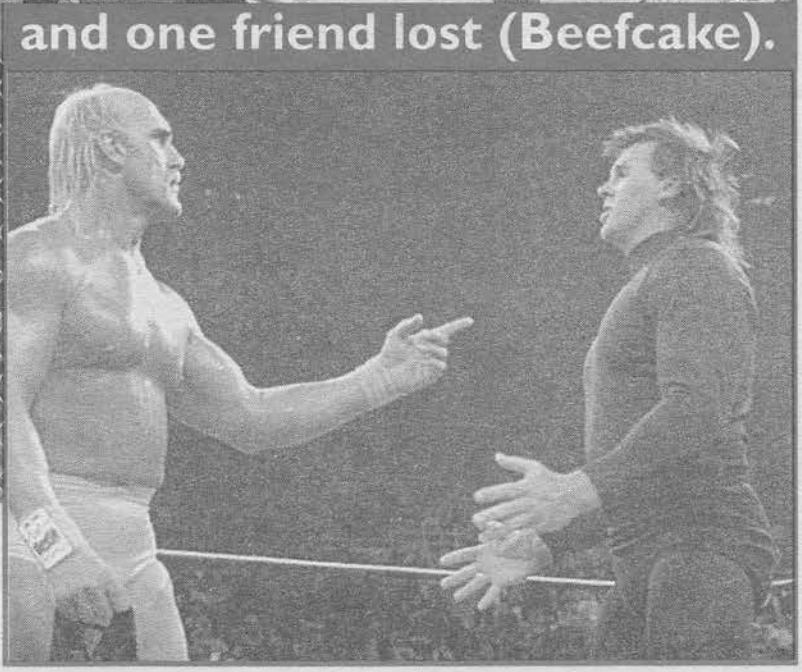
one friend saved (Sting),

YEAR IN PICTURES!

Mr. Hogan's scorecard for 1994:

one knee clubbed,

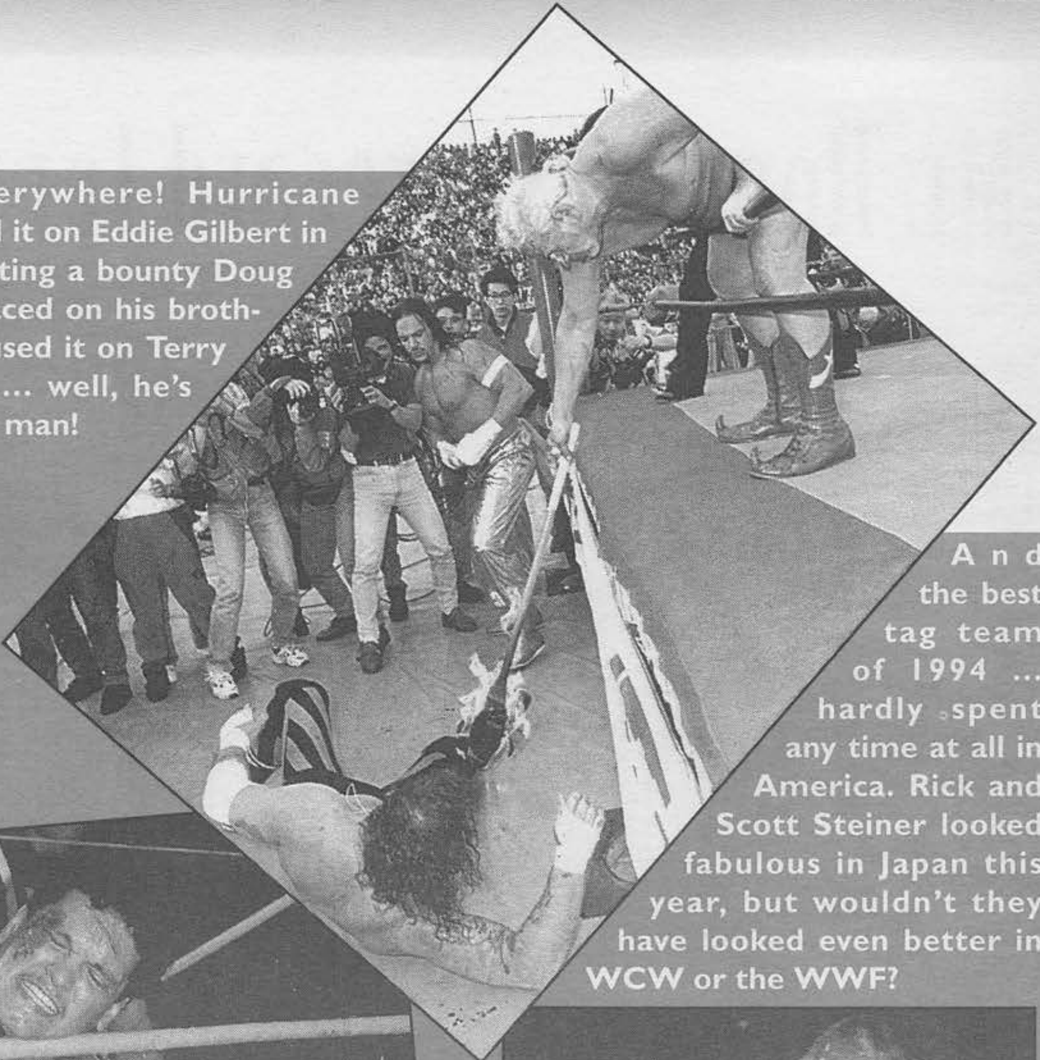
one rival retired, (Flair),



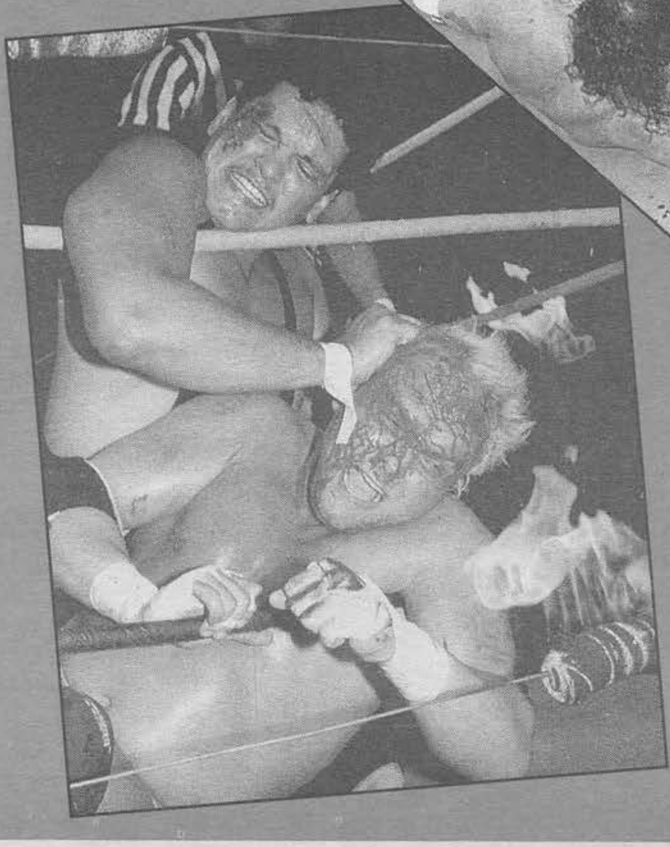
and one friend lost (Beefcake).

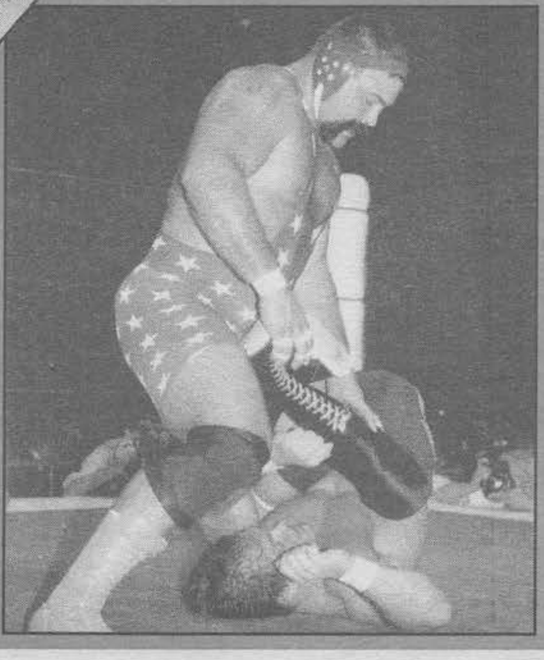
1994 THE

Fire, fire everywhere! Hurricane Castillo Jr. used it on Eddie Gilbert in hopes of collecting a bounty Doug Gilbert had placed on his brother. The Sheik used it on Terry Funk because ... well, he's just a crazy old man!



And the best tag team of 1994 ... hardly spent any time at all in America. Rick and Scott Steiner looked fabulous in Japan this year, but wouldn't they have looked even better in WCW or the WWF?



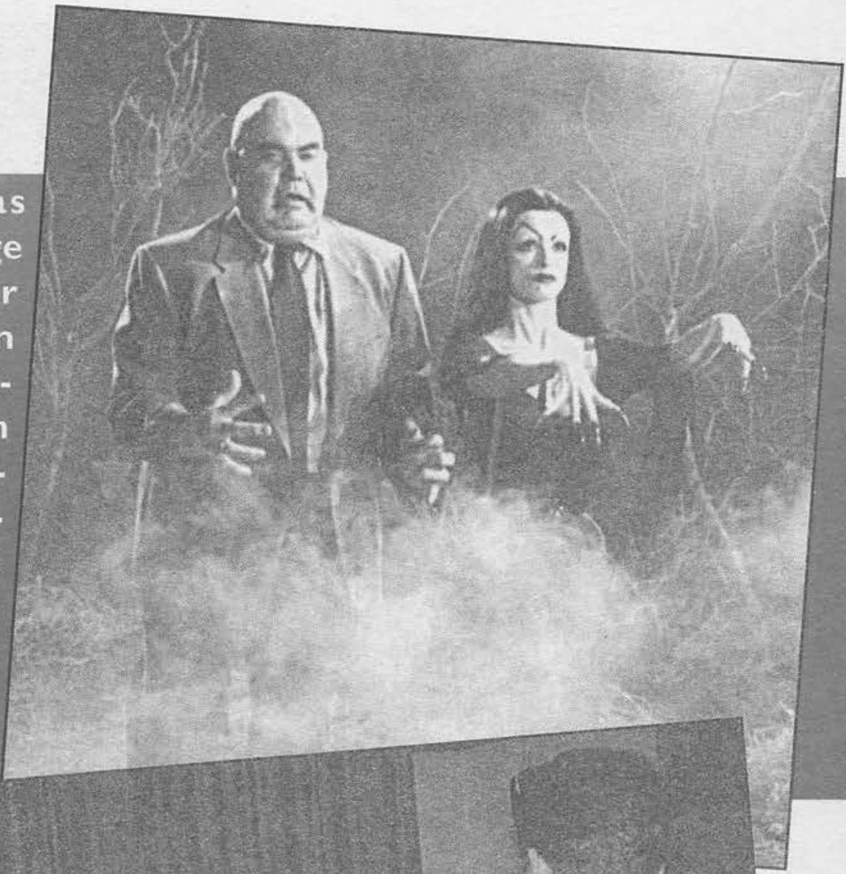


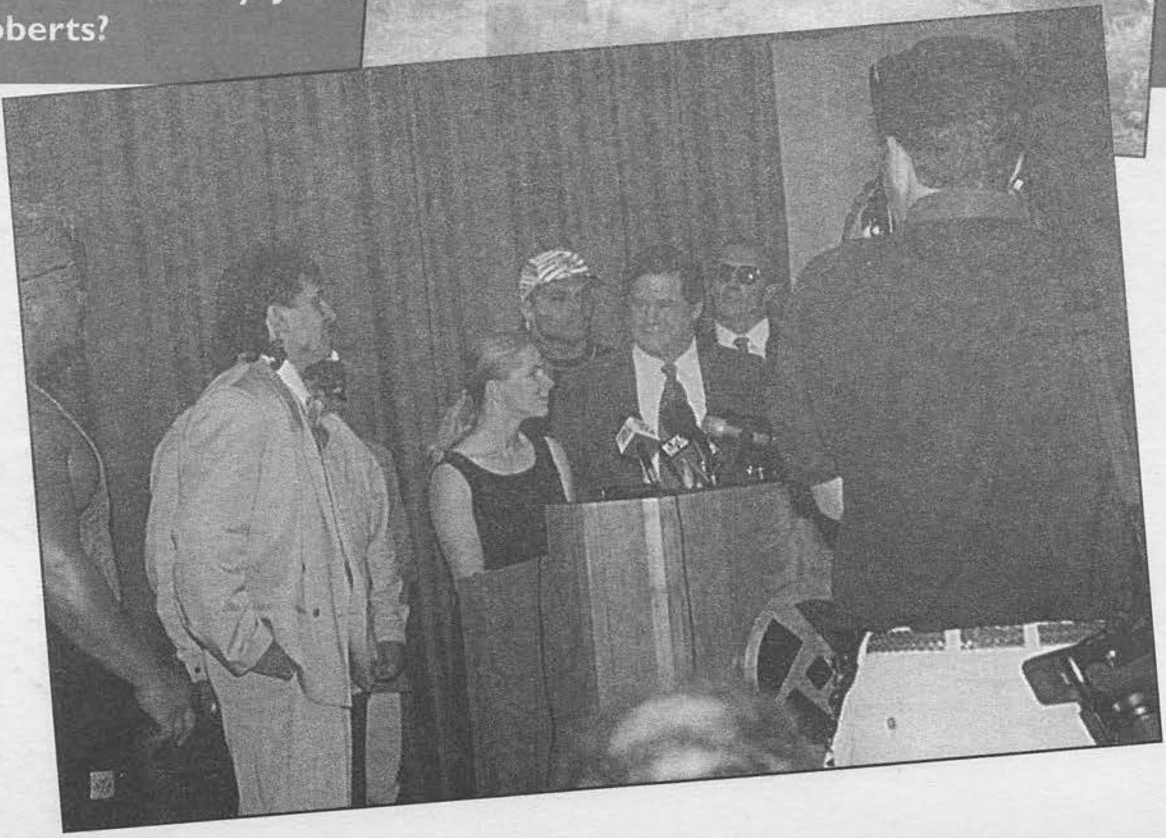
YEAR IN PICTURES!

Where can you find a little harmless windshield-smashing, T-shirt-in-mouth stuffing, bloody barbed-wire, chair-smashing action? In the USWA, WCW, and ECW, respectively.

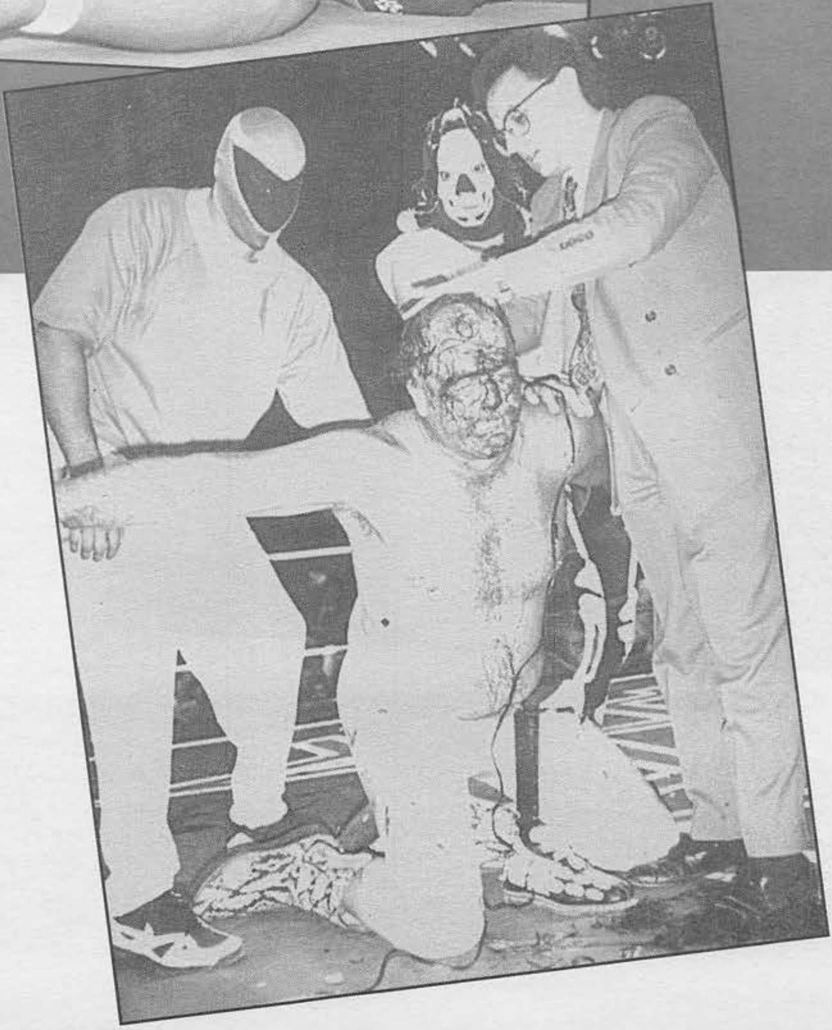
1994 THE

Okay, which one was scarier in 1994: George Steele as horror actor Tor Johnson in the film *Ed Wood*, Tonya Harding as a manager in Washington, Bob Backlund as a crazed rule-breaker who puts his chicken wing on anything that moves, or a bald and bloody Jake Roberts?

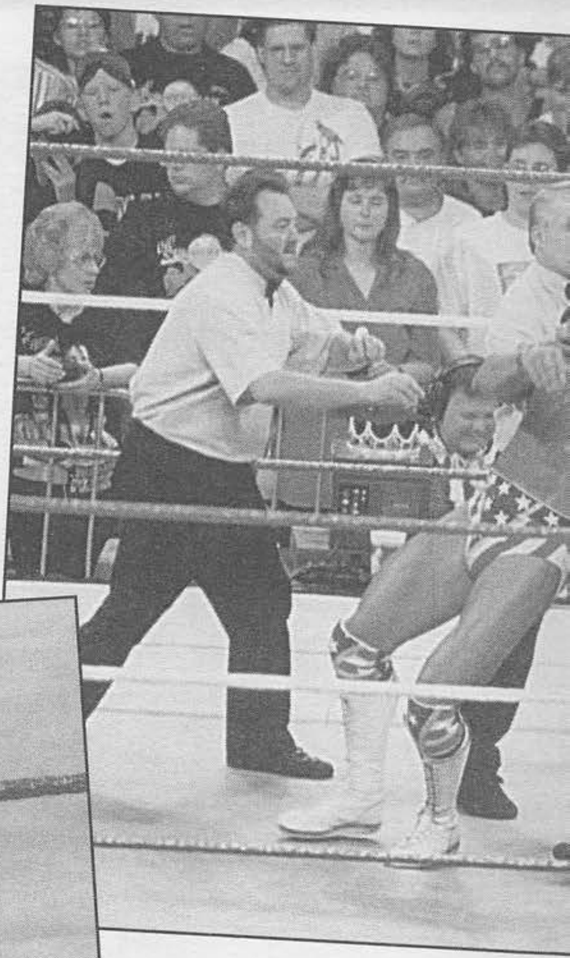




YEAR IN PICTURES!

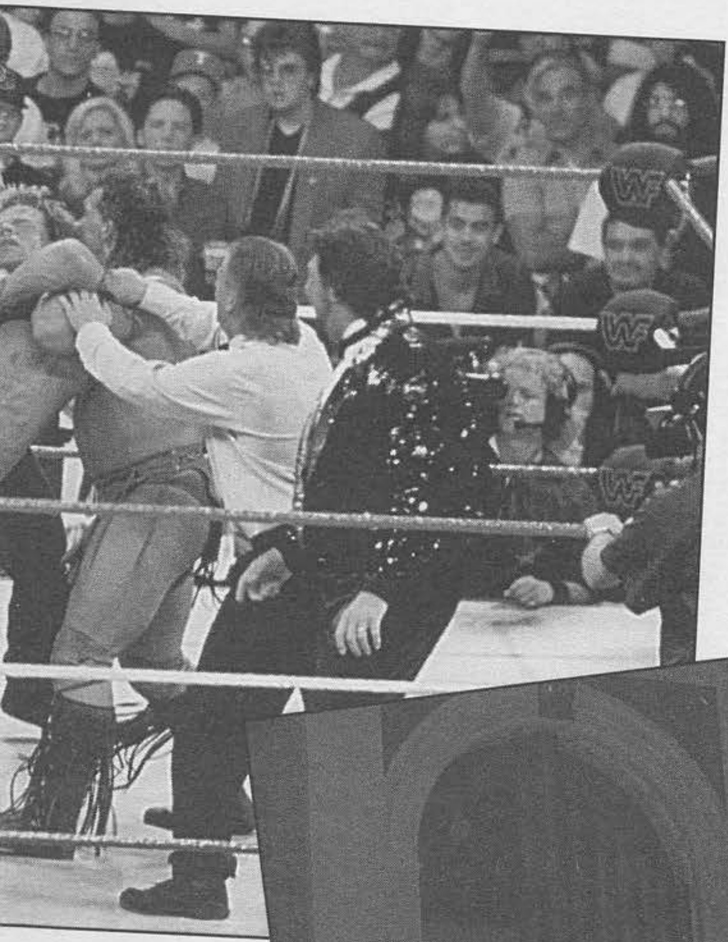


1994 THE



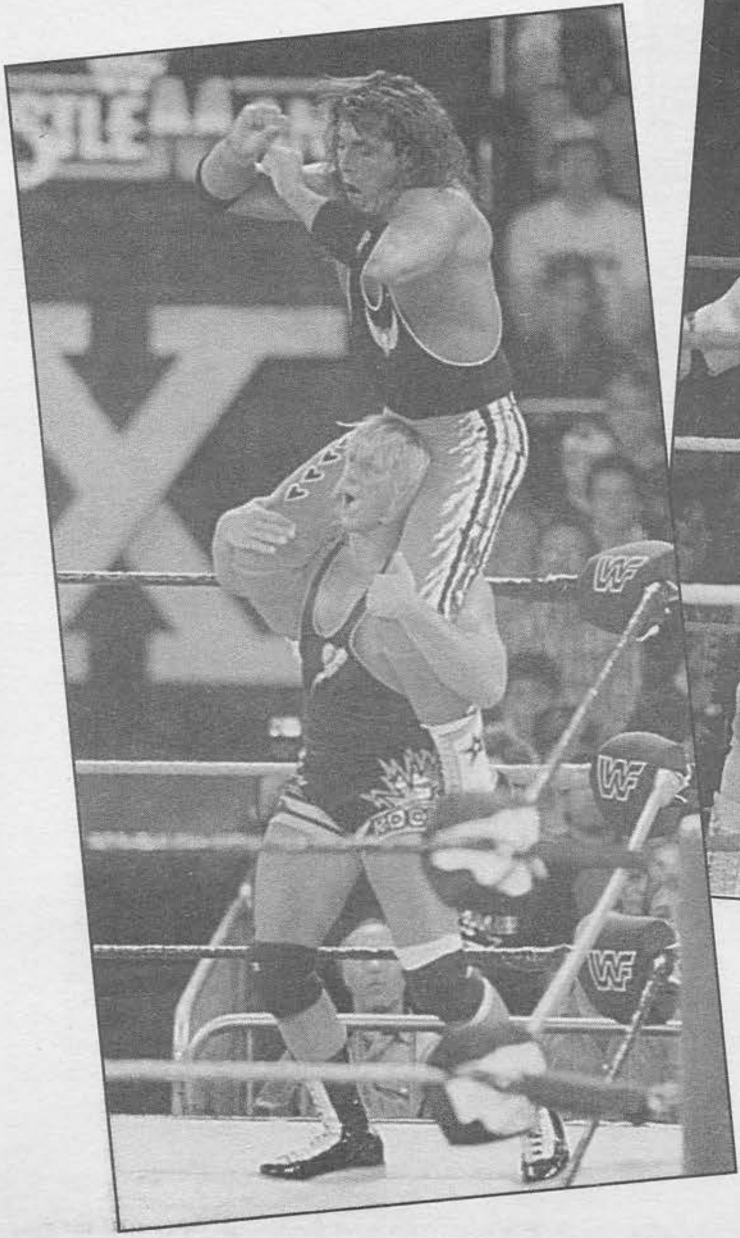
Hmmmmmm, **what can a million bucks buy me? Ted DiBiase's Corporation wielded plenty of power in 1994. Let's see ... Nikolai Volkoff is fading fast, Tatanka is struggling, and The Under-*faker* "perished" at SummerSlam. Maybe the power of money wasn't so strong after all ...**

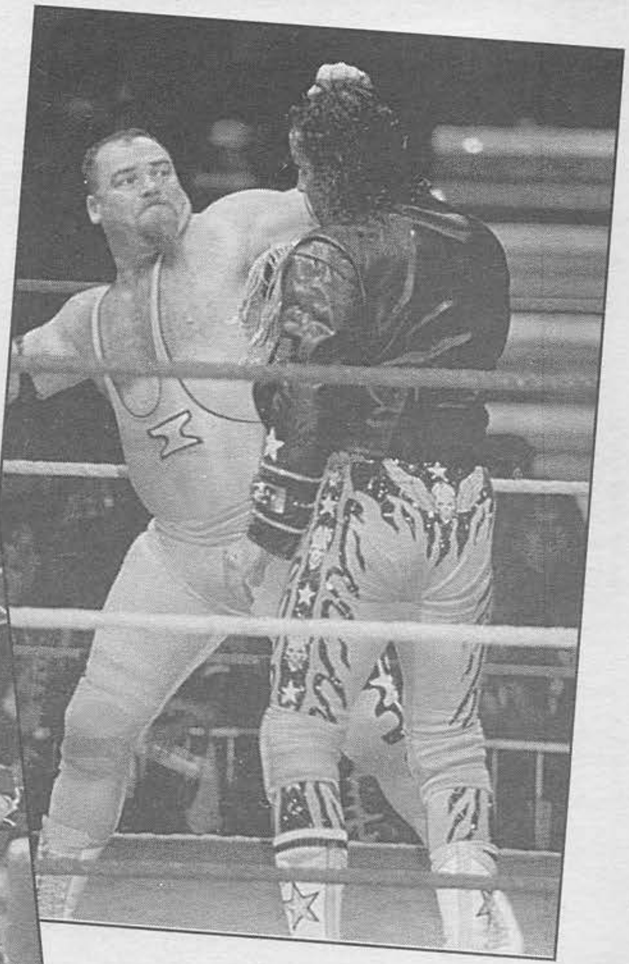
YEAR IN PICTURES!



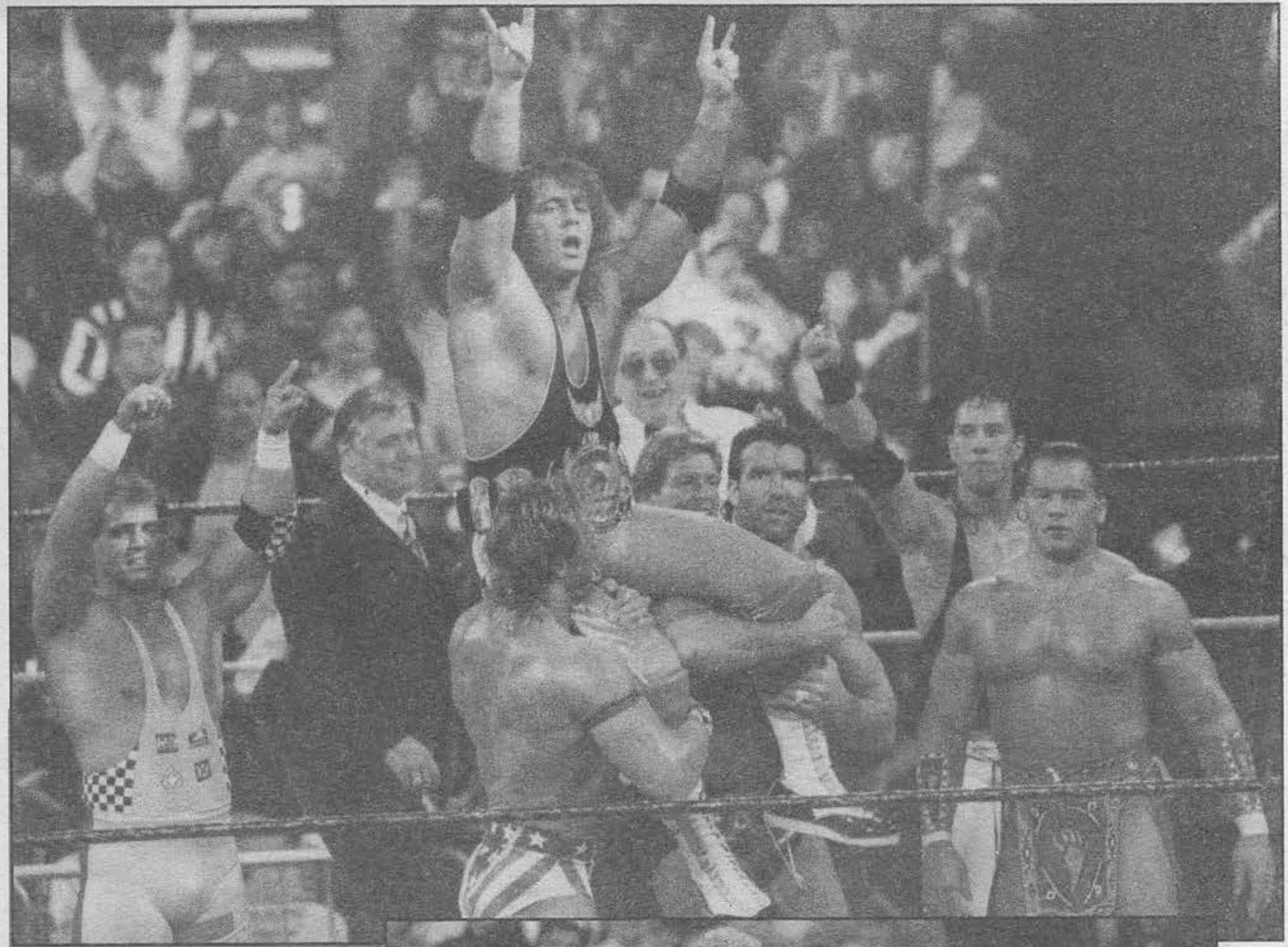
1994 THE

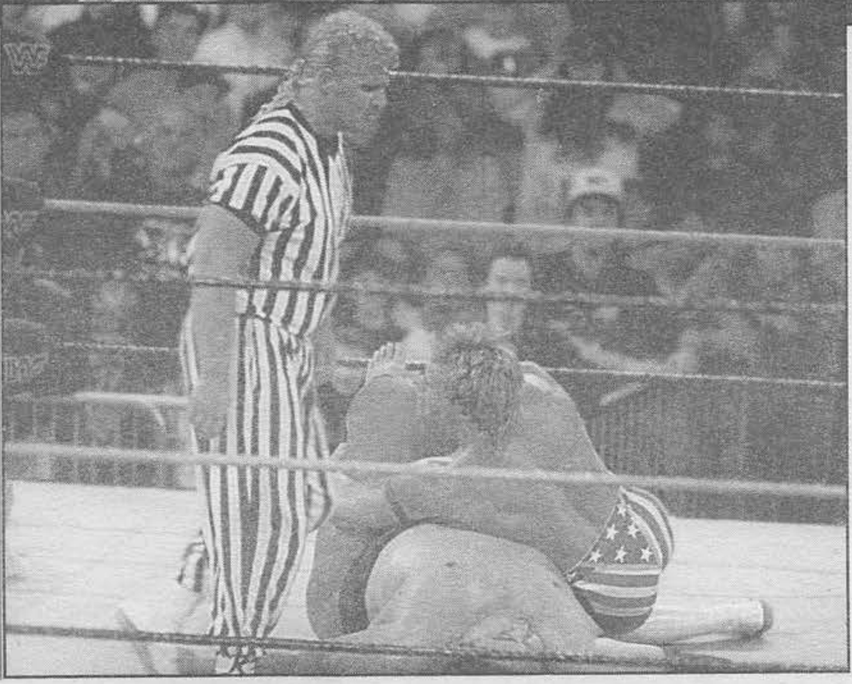
It was the best of times ... it was the worst of times. Maybe Bret Hart should have read Charles' Dickens *A Tale Of Two Cities* in 1994. He lost to his brother Owen at WrestleMania X, but won the World title a few hours later. By June, he was fending off the challenge of brother-in-law Jim Neidhart.





YEAR IN PICTURES!



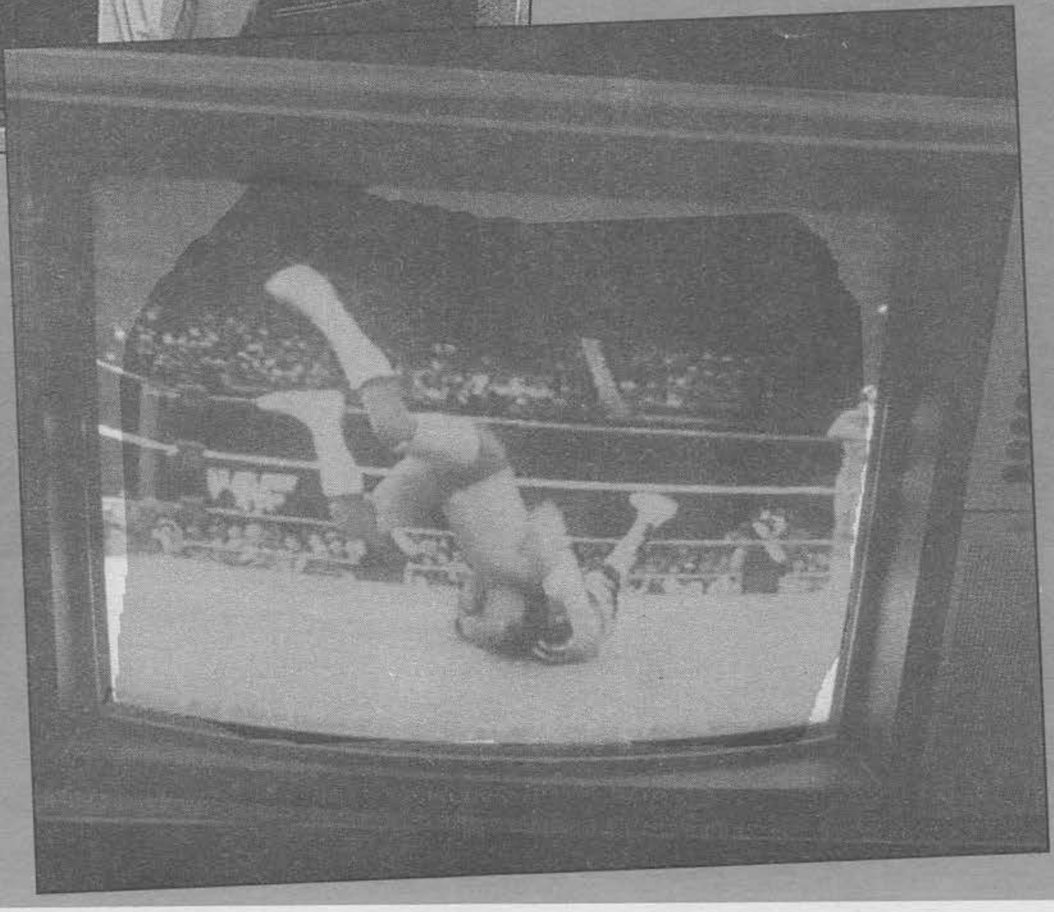


Lex Luger choked when it counted ... again ... at Wrestle-Mania X. Just the worst of times for the Lexman.

1994 THE

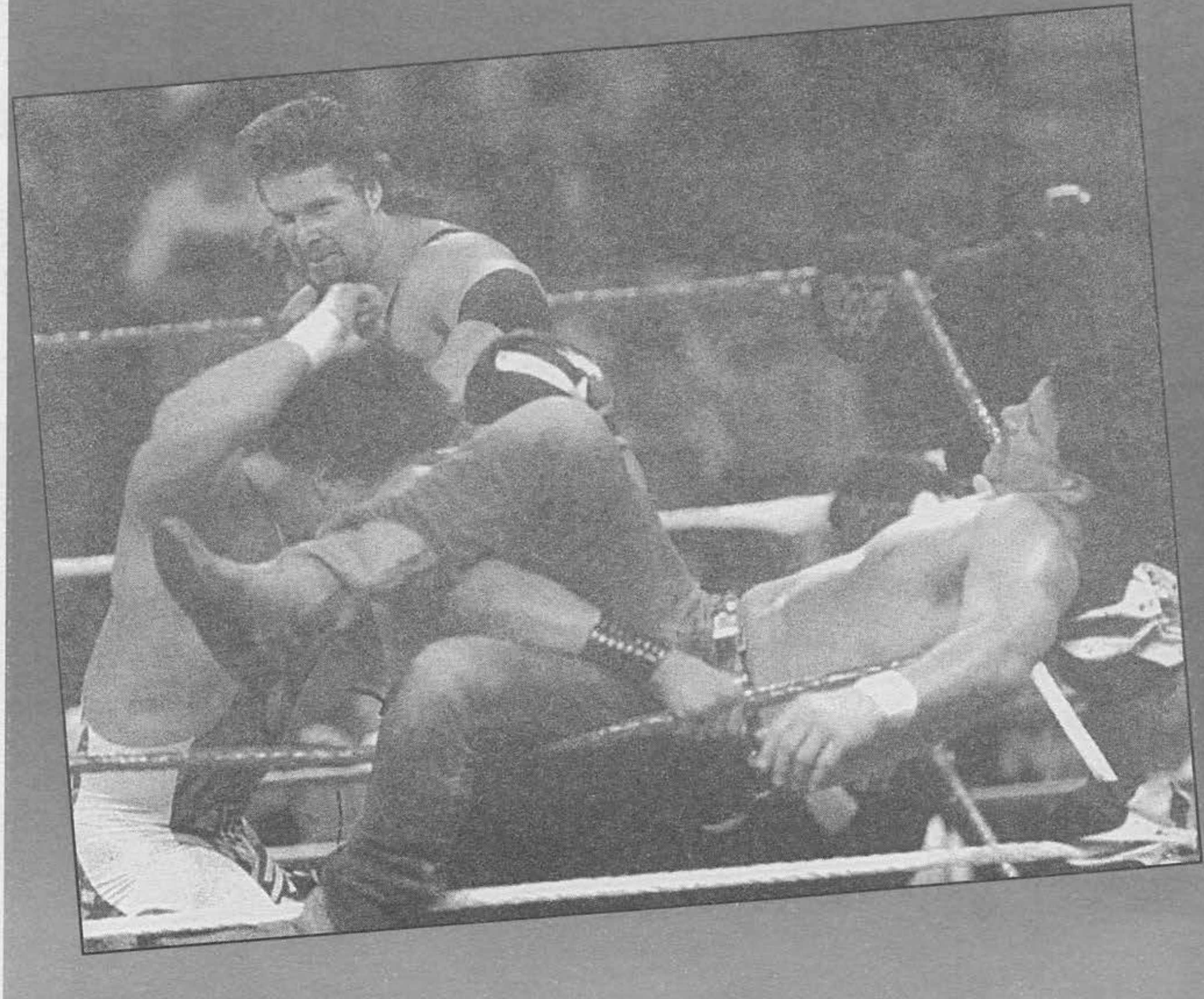
Legal woes struck the WWF in 1994. Rape and sodomy charges against Jerry Lawler were dropped and Vince McMahon was acquiited on steroid distribution charges. The federation took a real blow, however, when former preliminary wrestler Chuck Austin won a $26.7-million judgment for debilitating injuries he received after Marty Jannetty executed a "Rocker Dropper" on him in 1990.

YEAR IN PICTURES!

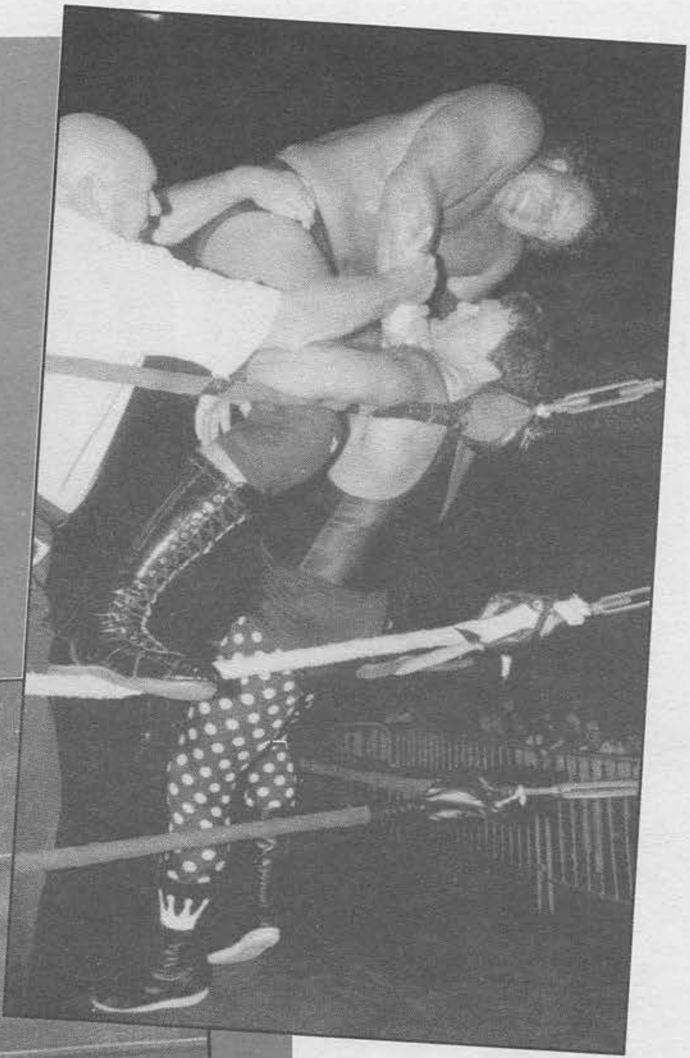


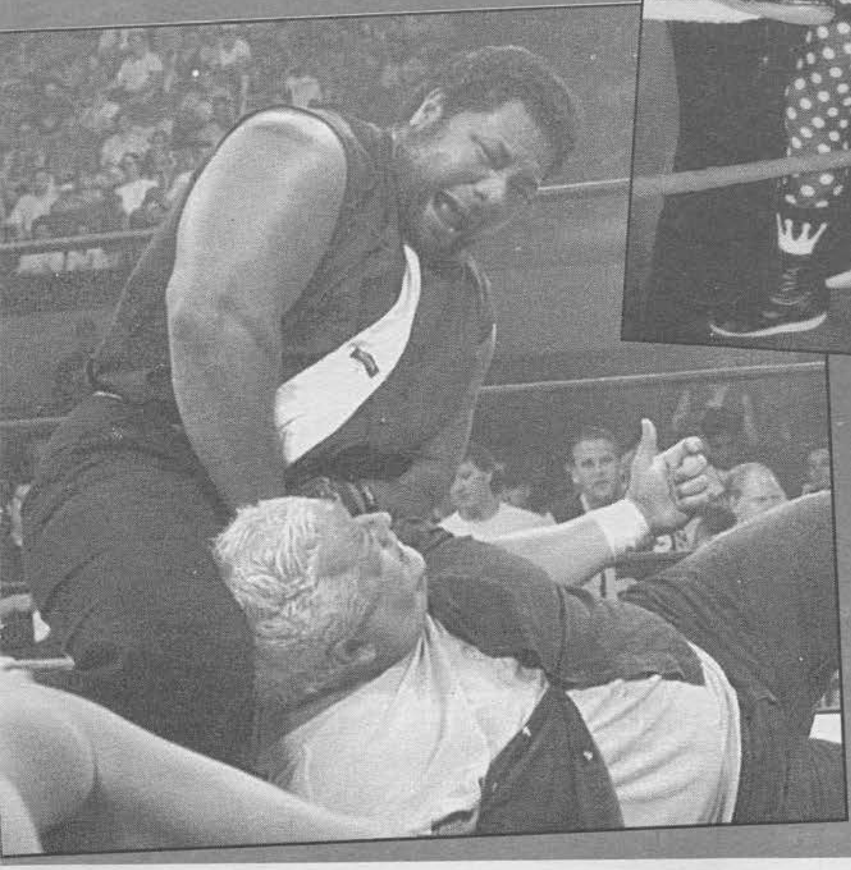
1994 THE

Big burly behemoths battle back big-time. Diesel Rumbled Royally in January, singlehandedly eliminating seven men at the annual WWF event, Jerry Lawler choked when Sid Vicious invaded the USWA, and Dusty Rhodes' comeback really touched a nerve in Meng.



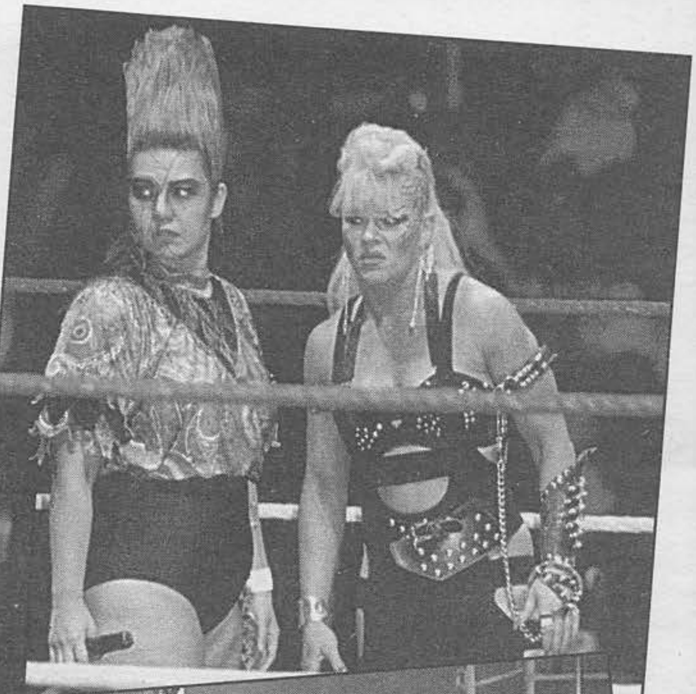
YEAR IN PICTURES!

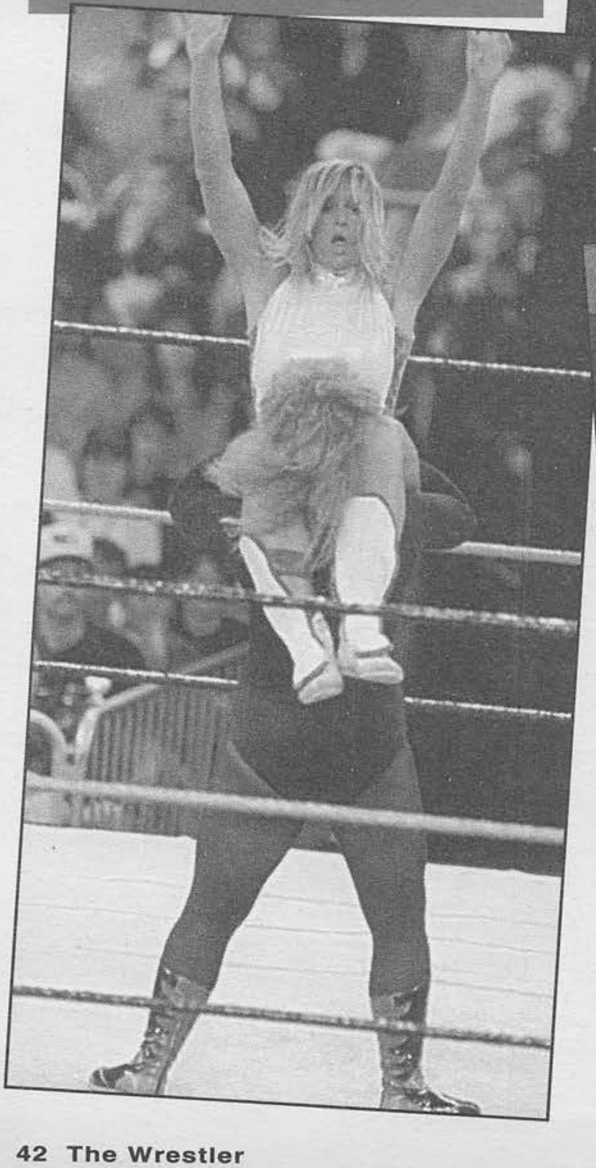


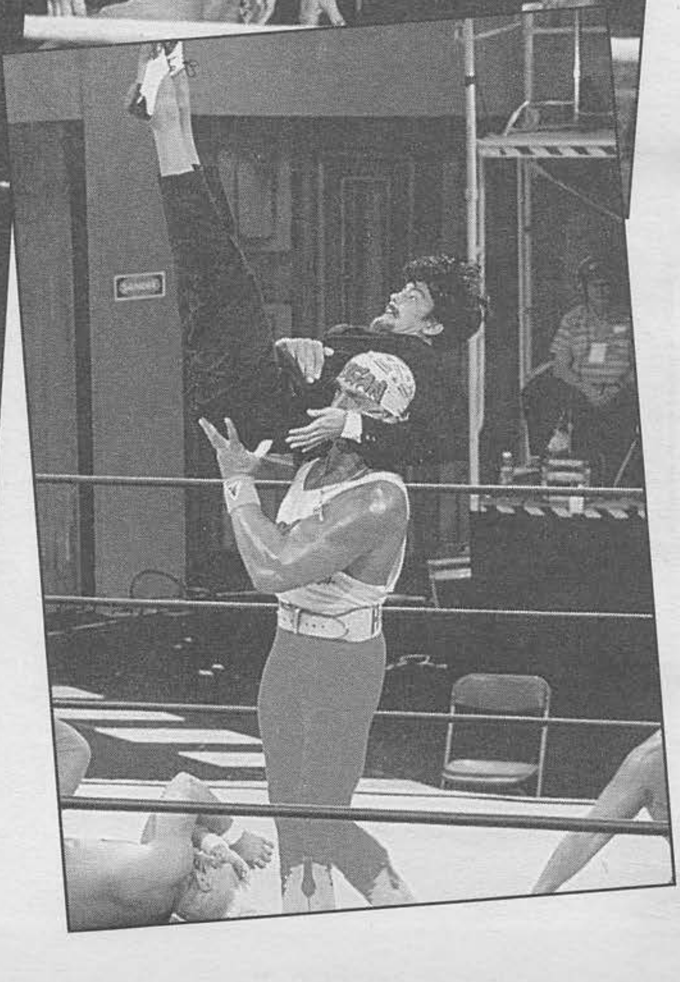


1994 THE

We can't quite put our finger on it. Alundra Blayze is one of the greatest athletes in the sport. She's even capable of executing several versions of the "Frankensteiner." Why don't the other women in wrestling get any respect?



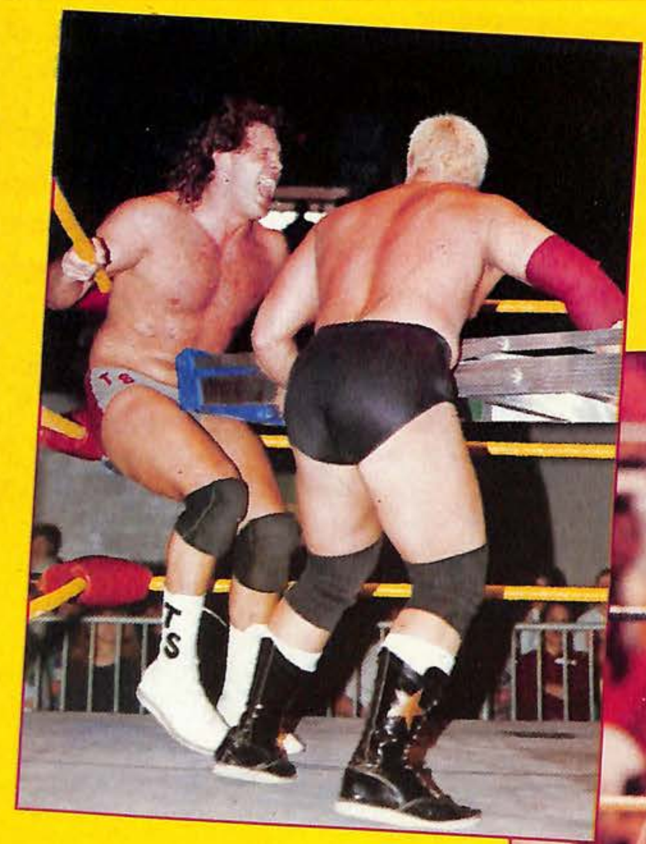




YEAR IN PICTURES!

Lose an ear in a bloody match with Big Van Vader and you should rush to the nearest hospital. Cactus Jack rushed to the nearest photographer. Typical behavior from a madman.

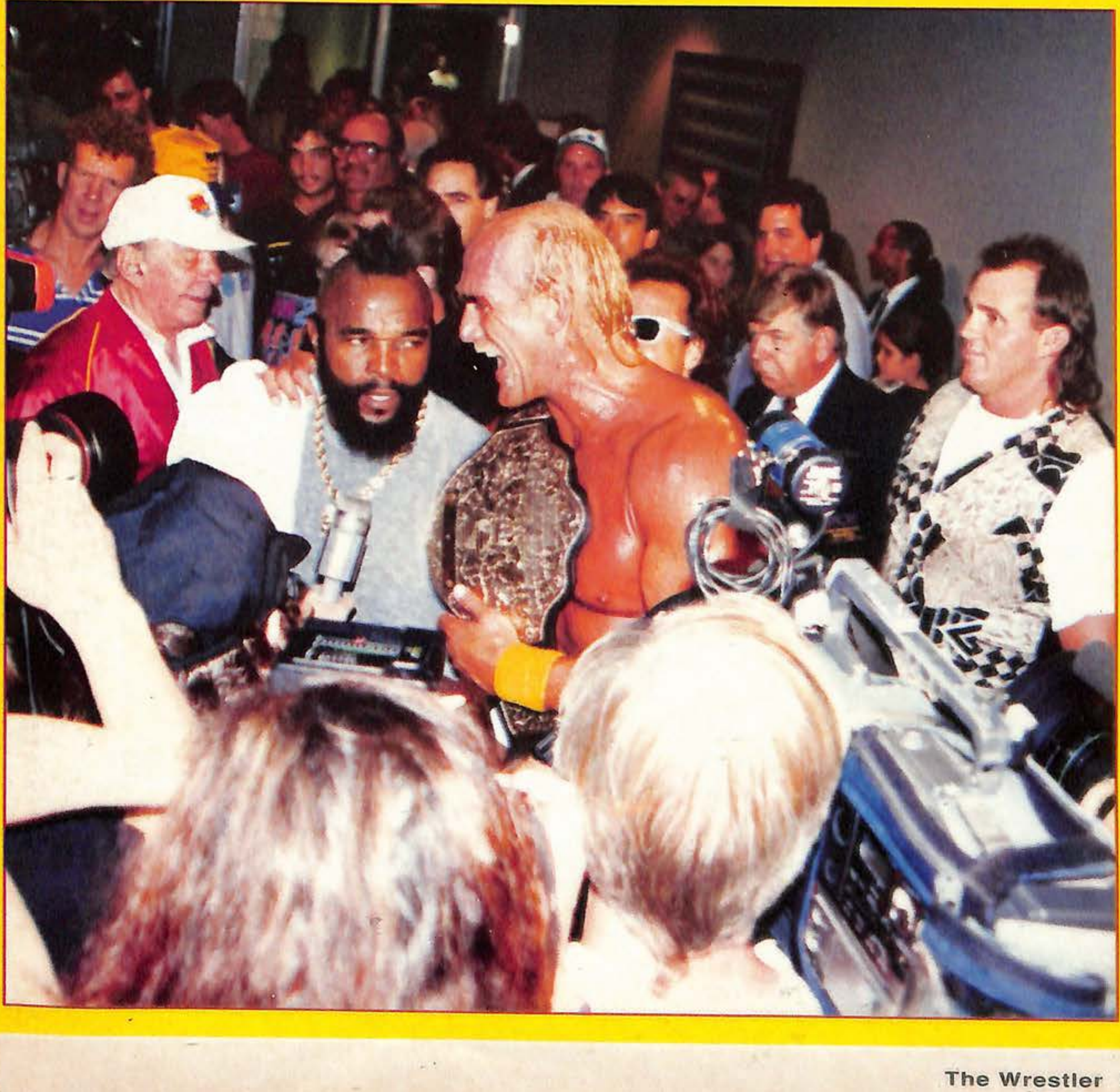
1994 THE



The Year of the Ladder. From the WrestleMania X war between Shawn Michaels and Diesel to the SMW struggles between Tracey Smothers and Chris Candido, wrestlers everywhere gave new meaning to the phrase "climbing the ladder of success."

YEAR IN PICTURES!

What was he thinking at this moment? What was going through the mind of Brutus Beefcake when his "friend" Hulk Hogan was celebrating his WCW World title victory at Bash at the Beach? Three months later, "The Barber" became "The Butcher."

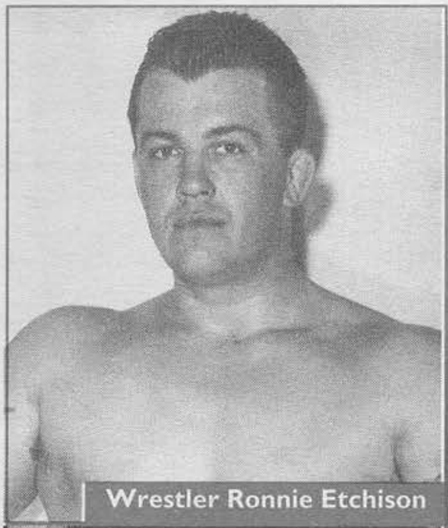


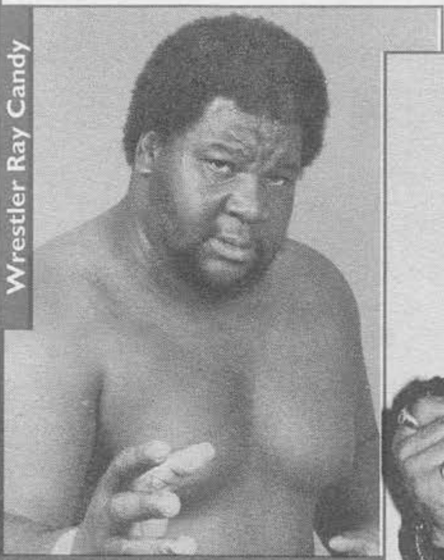
1994 THE

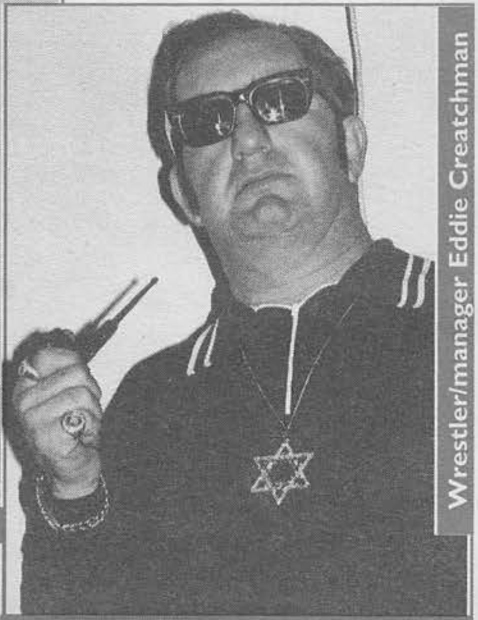
Independent wrestling in 1994: Ultra-hardcore wrestling to the extreme! Where else can you see Sabu moonsaulting onto a bloody Terry Funk or Abdullah the Butcher—minus a few folds of charred skin—digging a foreign object into the head of Abbudah Singh.

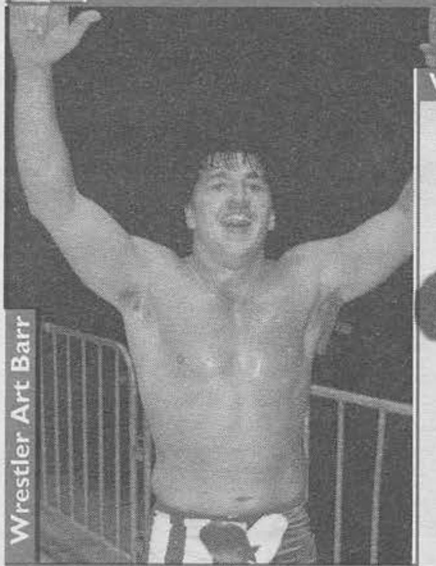
YEAR IN PICTURES!

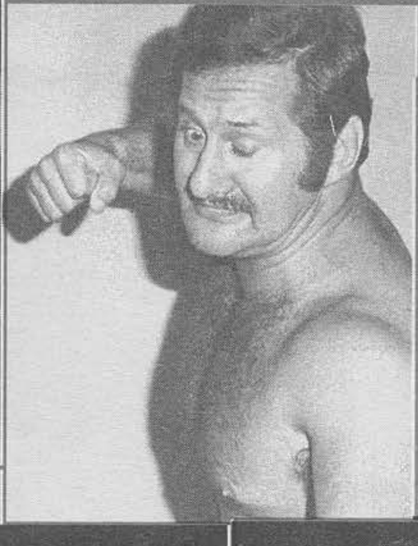
In Memoriam: Farewell To Some Of The Sport's Finest


Wrestler Ronnie Etchison


Wrestler Ray Candy

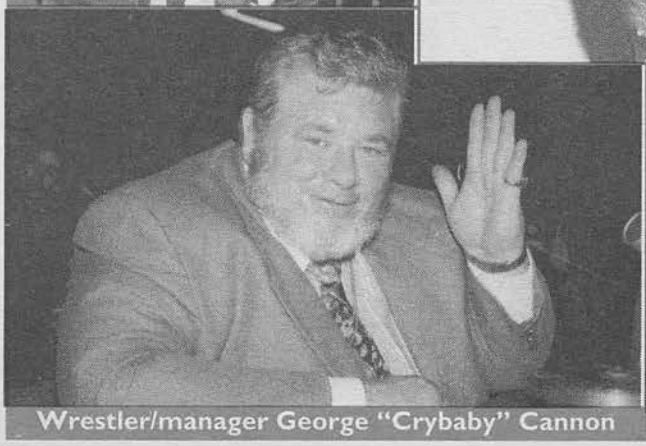

Wrestler/manager Eddie Creatchman


Wrestler Art Barr


Wrestler/trainer Boris Malenko

Frank "Sammy" Menacker

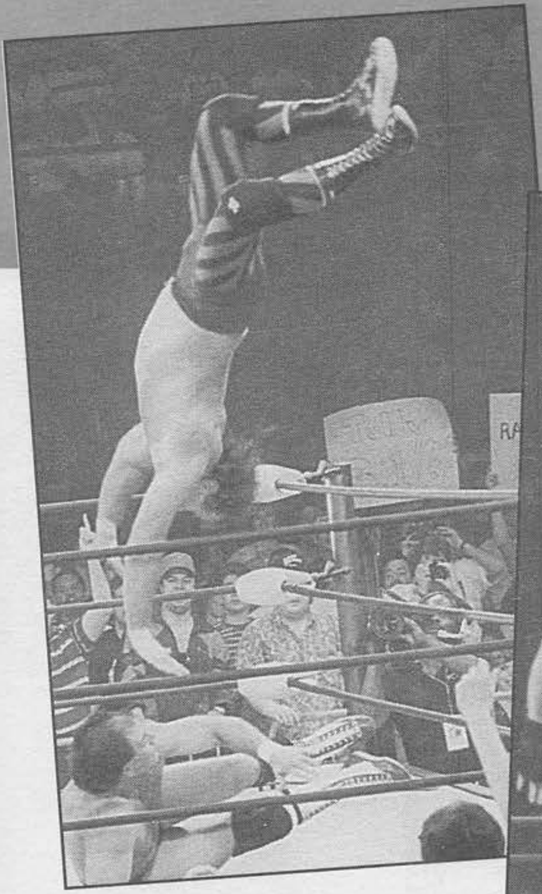
Wrestler/broadcaster/promoter

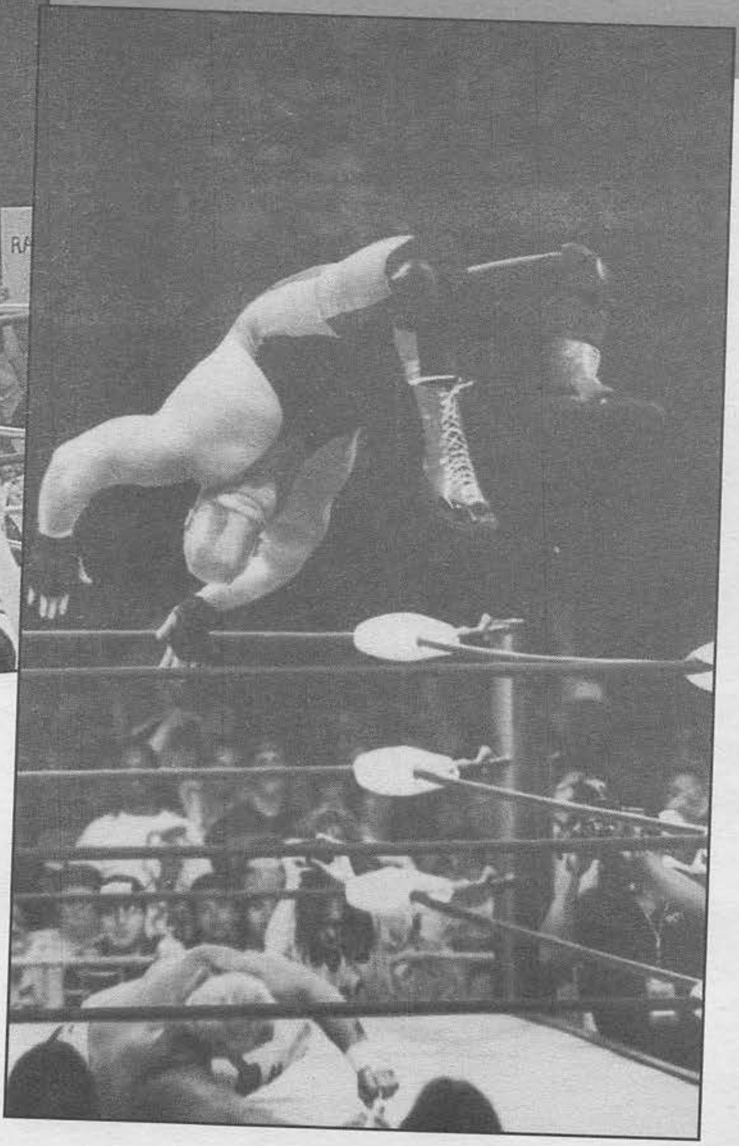

Wrestler/manager George "Crybaby" Cannon

Referee Joey Marella

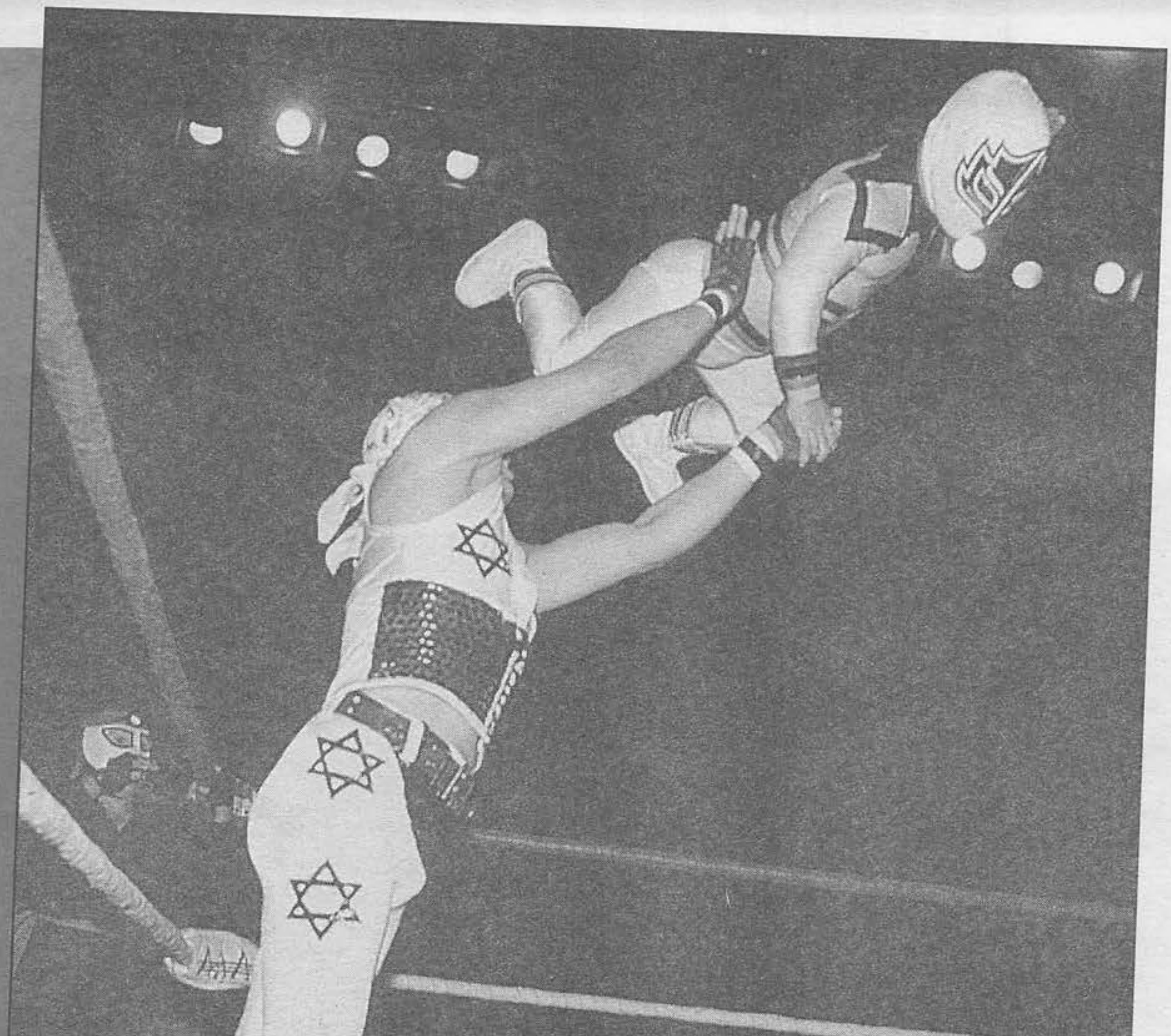
1994 THE

Okay, but could a 50-year-old 450-pounder execute a moonsault? Yes, Terry Funk and Big Van Vader showed everyone that it's no longer a move just for the young and nimble.



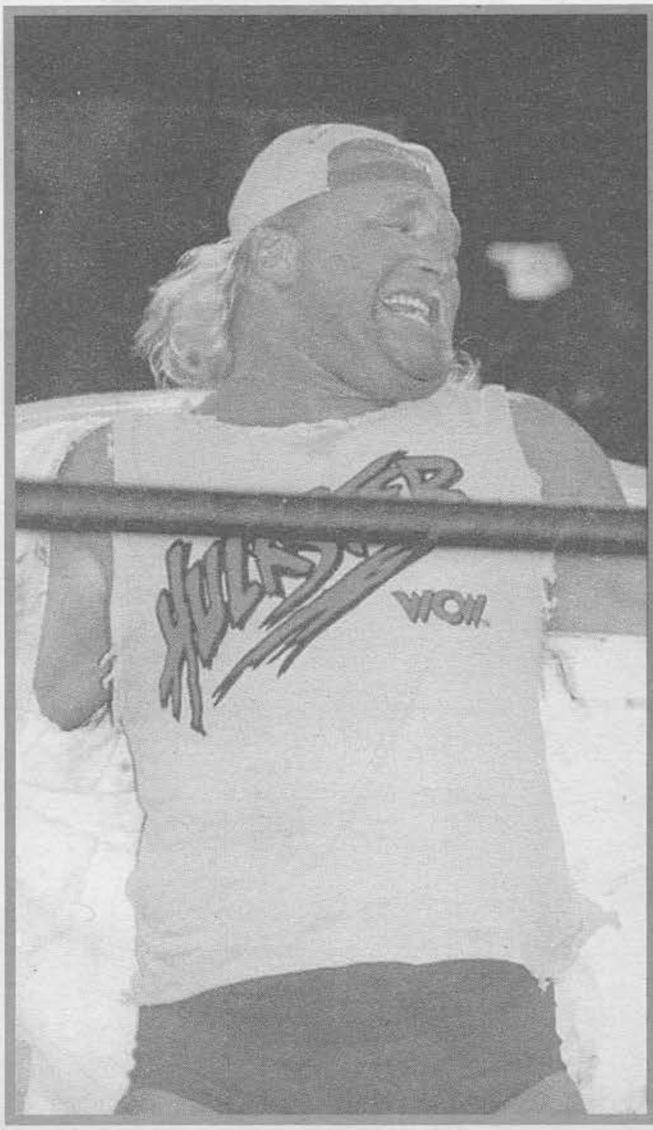


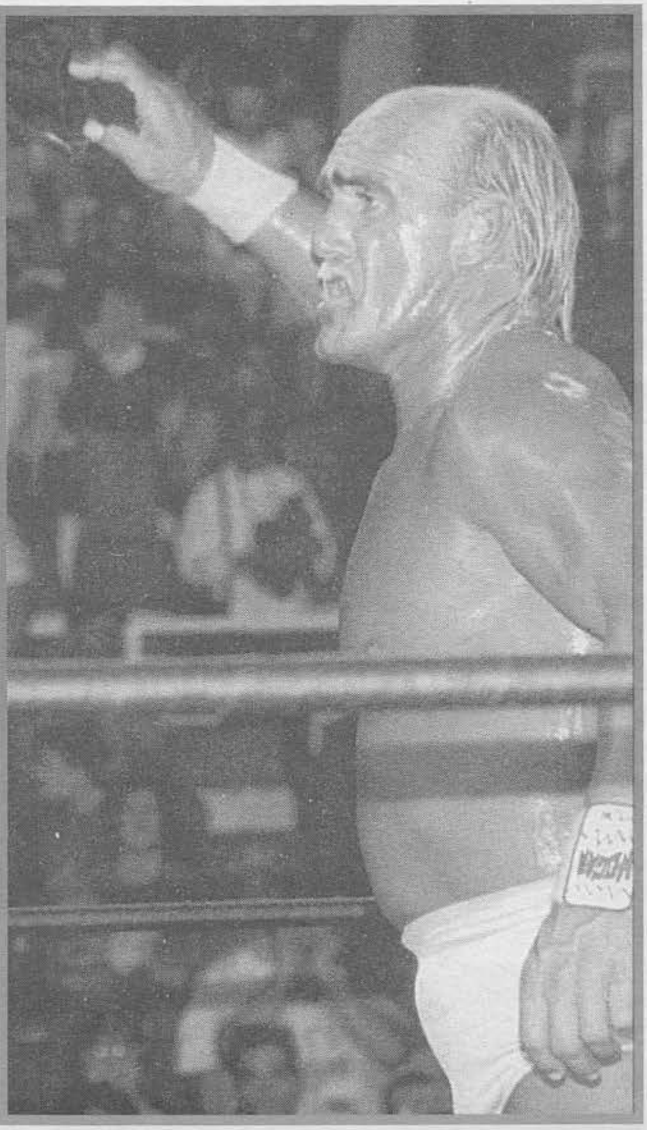
YEAR IN PICTURES!



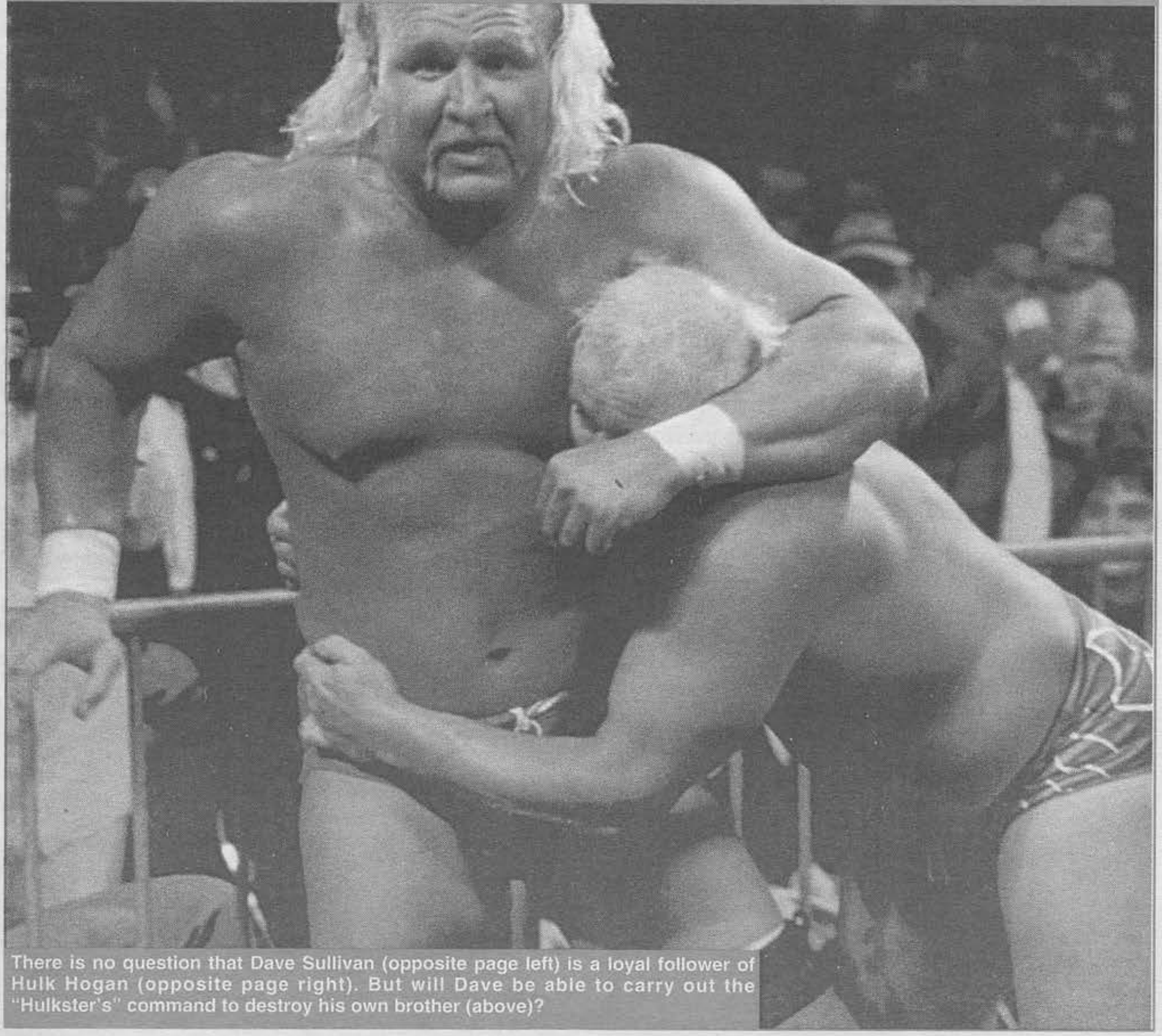
It's not Dink ... it's not Queasy ...
it's Mascarita Sagrada. AAA may be the best promotion a lot of people don't know about. More than 4,400 attended a card at New York's Paramount Theater in July.

HULK HOGAN ORDERS DAVE SULLIVAN: DESTROY YOUR BROTHER





HAVING DISPATCHED WITH RIC FLAIR, WCW WORLD CHAMPION HULK HOGAN FACES A NEW CHALLENGE FROM KEVIN SULLIVAN AND HIS COHORTS. HOGAN INTENDS TO USE THE LOYAL SUPPORT OF DAVE SULLIVAN TO START HIS OWN FAMILY FEUD



There is no question that Dave Sullivan (opposite page left) is a loyal follower of Hulk Hogan (opposite page right). But will Dave be able to carry out the "Hulkster's" command to destroy his own brother (above)?

By Chris Bernucca

THE TWO RULES every champion must remember are as follows:

1. Everyone wants to take the title from you.

2. Everyone else wants to be the champion's best friend.

There is no middle ground. There is no apathy. Everybody wants some sort of involvement in the champion's doings.

Fans who hate the champion will go to great lengths to let him know. They will boo and hiss at the champion. They will carry placards insulting the manhood of the champion. They will even throw things at the champion. When Rick Rude held the WCW U.S. heavyweight title for more than a year, his ring entrance was always accompanied by his theme music—and a shower of garbage from unappreciative fans.

Promoters who love the champion will also go to great lengths

to let him know. They will send a car to the airport to deliver him to the arena. They will provide him with his own locker room. They will even match him against a bum who has no right competing for the title. When Yokozuna held the WWF World title in 1993, he may have wrestled Duane Gill more times than he did Bret Hart.

Nobody understands this love-hate tug-of-war more than Hulk Hogan. Over the last decade, he has had plenty of practice playing the part, this year adding the WCW World title to his five WWF World titles. And right now, Hogan is playing the part to perfection.

Hogan defended his title against Ric Flair at Halloween Havoc, a loss that forced the "Nature Boy" to retire from the sport. But Flair's departure has not allowed Hogan to rest on his laurels. Instead, it has only meant the arrival of new challenges from different wrestlers.

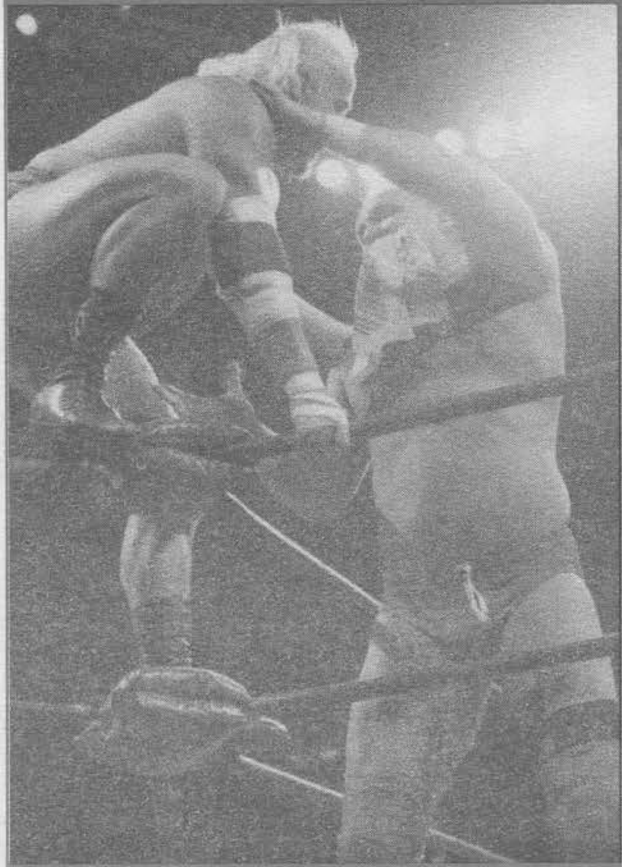
"I never thought for a minute, brother, that I would be home free once I beat Flair," admitted Hogan. "Ric Flair has a level of respect in WCW that I don't even have. When Ric Flair said he was going after Hulk Hogan's title, everybody just cleared out of the way. Nobody stepped on his toes. But now that he's out of the picture, everybody with a headlock and some hope will be coming after the 'Hulkster.'"

It didn't take long for Hogan to find that out. During his post-match celebration, longtime friend Brutus Beefcake, disguised in a black mask and outfit, attacked Hogan in the ring. He was soon joined by Avalanche and Kevin Sullivan. Sting interfered to defend Hogan and a full-scale brawl ensued, which ended with promises of further attacks.

Beefcake, who used to be known as "The Barber," is now calling himself "The Butcher." Avalanche is better known as Earthquake, who battled Hogan several times in the WWF. And Sullivan is just plain nuts. He asembled this group and has dubbed it "The Three Faces Of Fear." Together, they intend to destroy Hogan and take the title in the process.

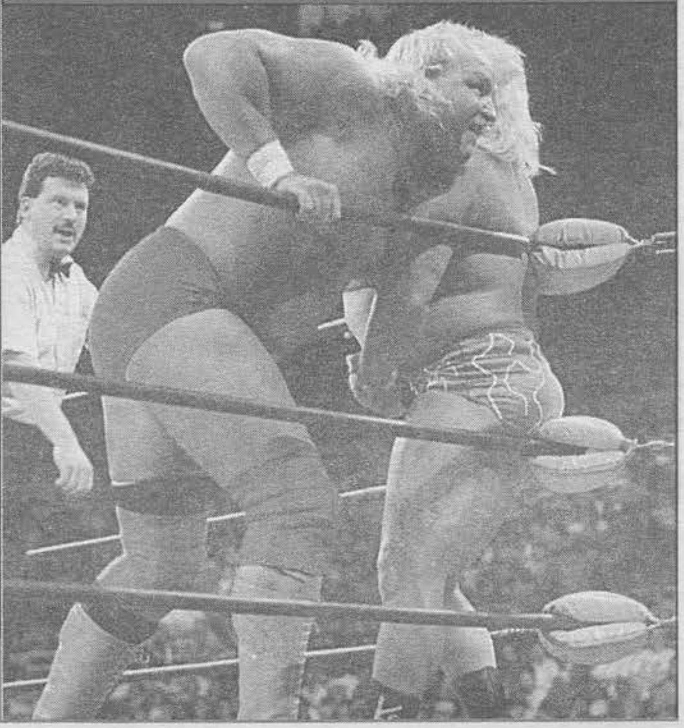
"That's how it is," said Sting, who is a three-time former world champion himself. "Guys come out of the woodwork looking for a piece of you. You have to watch your back all the time."

But the upside of being the champion is that you often have people watching your back for you. Hogan may have the support of Sting, manager Jimmy Hart, and legions of Hulkamaniacs, but



Dave Sullivan might not be an intellectual, but he knows Kevin's methods and was quick to abort his intended attack from the top rope.

Dave drives a shoulder into Kevin's chest before flinging him bodily across the ring. In spite of their roots, neither of the brothers has held back during this ugly feud.



his true equalizer is none other than Dave Sullivan.

Dave, the mentally challenged brother of Kevin Sullivan, has become the world's biggest and most faithful Hulkamaniac. Against his brother's wishes, Dave has become Hogan's loyal supporter. Hogan allows Dave to accompany him most everywhere and even gave Dave a pair of his red boots. Recently, Hogan gave Dave something else—an order to destroy his brother.

Some critics say Hogan is using Dave Sullivan, capitalizing on his loyalty and his lack of brain power to do his battles for him. But on the same Halloween Havoc card in which Hogan defeated Flair, Dave wrestled Kevin, defeating him by countout.

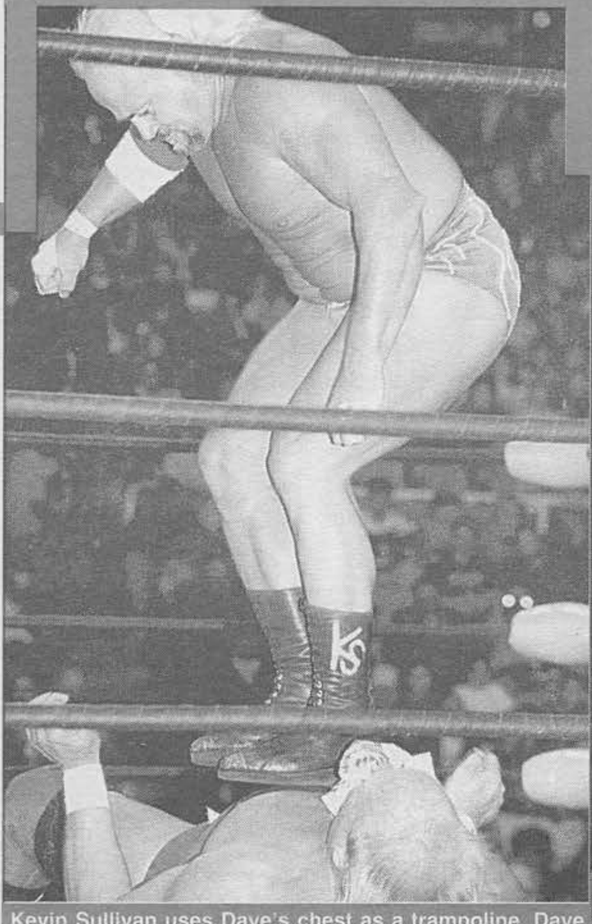
"Hey, I'm not asking him to do anything he hasn't done before," Hogan said in his own defense. "There's already bad blood between them. Dave understands wrestling. He knows that when you get in the ring, you have to beat your opponent, no matter who he is. I explained to him that Kevin and his friends want to do the same thing to me that he wants to do to him, so we have to stick together."

But are the two sticking together? While Dave Sullivan is always at the side of Hogan, it remains to be seen if Hogan will lend the same support for his biggest fan. If he doesn't, Dave Sullivan could find himself at a severe handicap, wrestling one-against-Three Faces of Fear. And by ordering Dave to destroy his brother, he may be putting permanent scars on a family, tearing it apart.

"That's nothing new," offered Hart, who still keeps close tabs on the goings-on in the entire sport. "Look at the Gilberts in the USWA. Look at the Harts. Last names don't matter when you're in the ring, baby."

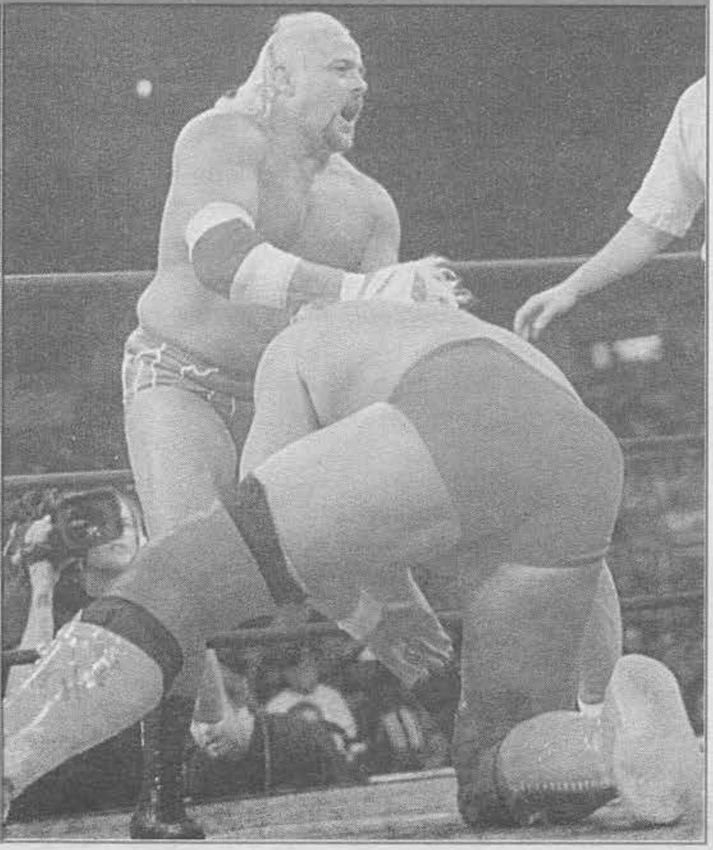
"I see his little game, and it isn't gonna work," Kevin Sullivan said. "I've been wrestling my brother since I was six years old, and it don't make a difference whether it's in our backyard or The Omni. Brothers fight. That's how it is, and that's how it'll always be with the Sullivan boys."

With the belt firmly around his waist, that is exactly what Hogan is hoping. □



Kevin Sullivan uses Dave's chest as a trampoline. Dave is determined not to cave in to the pressures of his older brother. If there is one thing he knows, it's right from wrong.

Kevin has Dave down, but far from out. One thing that Dave has learned by watching Hulk Hogan in action is how to draw upon the fans' support to gain strength during a match.



WWF '95 VS. WWF '85: WHICH IS BETTER?

Our Exclusive Computer PPV Decides A Winner!

The WWF has seen many great wrestlers come and go during the past 10 years. Our exclusive computer pay-per-view used the ratings from THE WRESTLER *to match up the champion and top 10 contenders from 1985 and 1995. Each wrestler will be given one point for a victory, whether it be by pinfall, DQ, or countout. All we did was feed the data into the program, and the computer decided the rest! Let's get down to ringside!*

NUMBER-10 CONTENDERS: TONGA KID VS. JIM NEIDHART

Tonga Kid starts out at a furious pace with several bodyslams and a beautiful armdrag takedown, but Neidhart makes it to his feet and lands a low blow. He remains in control for the rest of the bout and dumps Kid out of the ring. After getting in a few kicks, Owen Hart, Neidhart's second, tosses Kid back inside. One piledriver later, he's finished.

OFFICIAL DECISION: Jim Neidhart, by pinfall, at 9:04.

NUMBER-NINE CONTENDERS: BARRY WINDHAM VS. IRWIN R. SCHYSTER

The match starts quickly with these former tag team partners tearing at each other like wild dogs. Windham drags Schyster outside the ring and bashes his head on a table. With the referee knocked out, Schyster retrieves his steel briefcase and attempts to smash Windham, but Windham meets him with a sharp right hand, then DDTs him on the briefcase. With Schyster unconscious, Windham dumps the briefcase out of the ring and covers him; the semi-conscious referee makes the three-count.

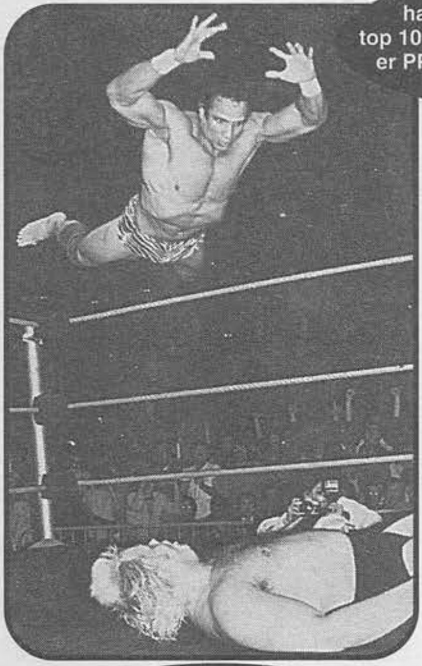
OFFICIAL DECISION: Barry Windham, by pinfall, at 12:51.

NUMBER-EIGHT CONTENDERS: JIMMY SNUKA VS. OWEN HART

This match opens with both men trying to feel each other out. Late in the match, Owen makes a huge mistake by trying to headbutt Snuka. "Superfly" retaliates with his own crushing headbutt and, with the crowd cheering him on, executes a "Superfly" dive onto Owen. "The Rocket" doesn't get up.

OFFICIAL DECISION: Jimmy Snuka, by pinfall, at 2:09.

Jim Neidhart is struggling just to stay in the WWF top 10 these days, but he did okay in our computer PPV. He got some help from Owen Hart and pummeled Tonga Kid.



Jimmy Snuka's "Superfly" dive remains one of the most potent finishing moves in the world. Would Owen Hart survive it? No way, says our computer. Chalk another one up for the 1985 WWFers.

NUMBER-SEVEN CONTENDERS: NIKOLAI VOLKOFF VS. JEFF JARRETT

Volkoff sings the Soviet national anthem before the match, but Jarrett enters the ring in the middle of the song and levels Volkoff with a beautiful split-legged dropkick. He scoops up the mighty Volkoff and powerslams him. With Volkoff dazed, Jarrett nails Volkoff right on the chin with a gorgeous top-rope dropkick, and covers him for the quick pin.

OFFICIAL DECISION: Jeff Jarrett, by pinfall, at 2:47.

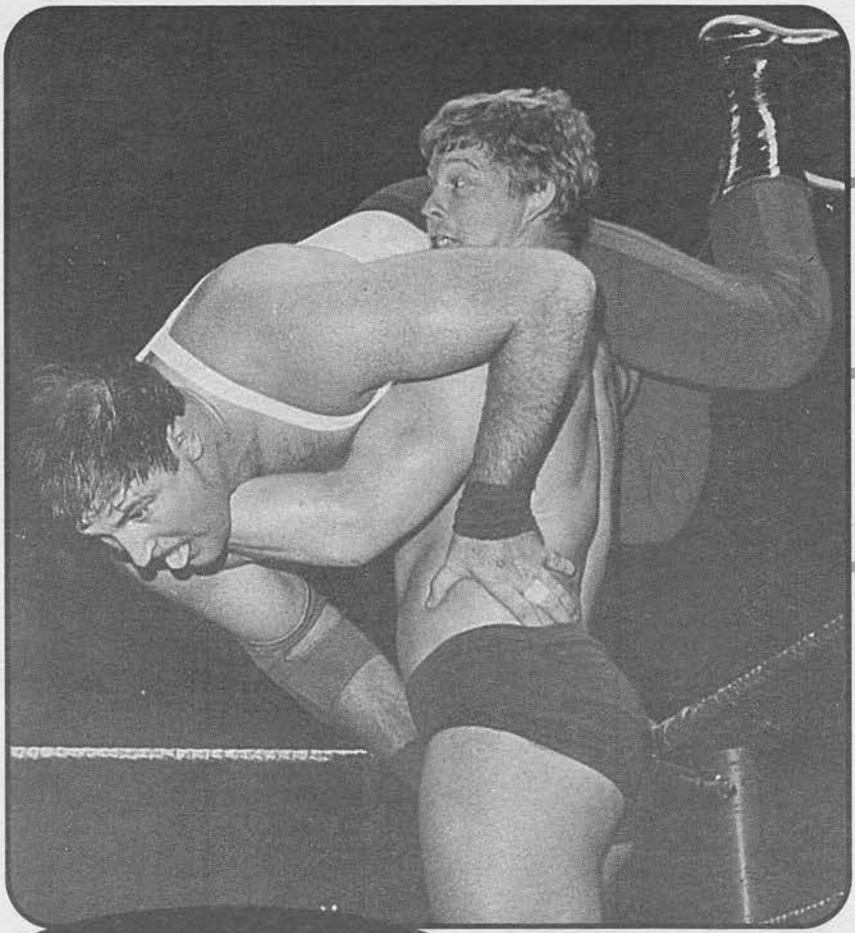
NUMBER-SIX CONTENDERS: SGT. SLAUGHTER VS. BOB BACKLUND

These two combatants had a major feud in the WWF in the mid-1980s, and neither one forgot about it. Backlund looks like he couldn't care less if he wins the match. He jumps Slaughter from behind as soon as the bell rings and the action spills outside the ring. Both men pummel each other at ringside. Backlund clamps on the chicken wing and doesn't seem to notice that the referee is counting both of them out. The bell rings, but Backlund keeps the chicken wing on for 10 more minutes.

OFFICIAL DECISION: A double-countout, at 12:30.

hoisted above his head and hits DiBiase with Tatanka's feet. One clothesline later, the match is over.

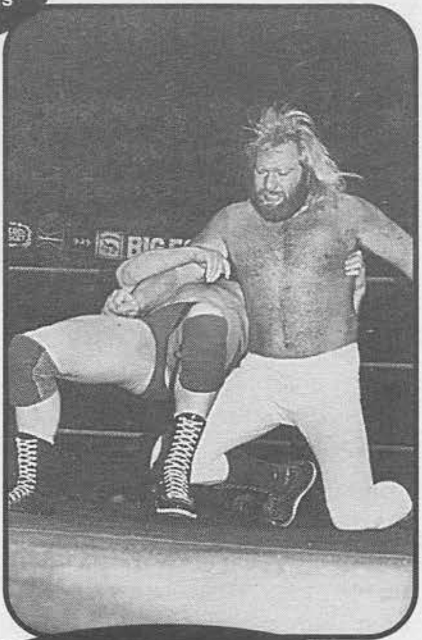
OFFICIAL DECISION: Junkyard Dog, by pinfall, at 8:06.



Former bitter rivals Bob Backlund and Sgt. Slaughter went at it again in our PPV. Unfortunately, Backlund completely lost his cool and it wasn't much of a match.

NUMBER-FIVE CONTENDERS: JUNKYARD DOG VS. TATANKA

Tatanka uses his speed and agility to confuse JYD, but makes his first mistake when he tries a headbutt. JYD just smiles. He gets down on all fours and headbutts Tatanka in the ribs. At this point, Ted DiBiase, Tatanka's manager, picks up a chair and nails JYD in the head. JYD doesn't even flinch and headbutts DiBiase twice. JYD drags Tatanka back into the ring just as DiBiase re-enters. JYD turns around with Tatanka



Big John Studd's backbreaker can do all kinds of damage to anyone on the receiving end of it. But The Undertaker is no ordinary opponent and he surprised Studd with his ability to absorb pain.

NUMBER-FOUR CONTENDERS: KEN PATERA VS. LEX LUGER

Luger attacks the former Olympian before the opening bell, delivering forearm smashes to his back and head. But Patera bounces right back. The crowd rallies behind Luger and, after a huge kneelift, he senses victory. He throws Patera outside and whips him into the steel safety rail. Not wanting to win by countout, Luger throws him back into the ring. Luger, however, doesn't pay attention to the referee's count and gets counted out himself.

OFFICIAL DECISION: Ken Patera, by countout, at 9:12.

NUMBER-THREE CONTENDERS: JOHN STUDD VS. THE UNDERTAKER

Undertaker obtains the first advantage by working on Studd's giant left arm. Studd tries to hop over the top rope, but Undertaker pulls him back into the ring. Late in the match, Undertaker attempts a "tombstone" piledriver, but Studd's swinging legs level the referee. With the ref down, managers Bobby Heenan and Paul Bearer run into the ring. The referee struggles to his feet and calls for the bell.

OFFICIAL DECISION: A double-disqualification, at 10:03.

NUMBER-TWO CONTENDERS: TITO SANTANA VS. BRET HART

This matchup was considered by many to be the best pure wrestling match on the card, but it may disappoint some. It is all Santana for the first eight minutes; he keeps "The Hitman" on the mat with an armlock. Unfortunately for Santana, he goes for his flying forearm finisher too early. Hart ducks and Tito is sent crashing to the mat. Tito is done in by the "sharpshooter."

OFFICIAL DECISION: Bret Hart, by submission, at 8:42.

NUMBER-ONE CONTENDERS: GREG VALENTINE VS. RAZOR RAMON

Valentine lands the first blow when he kicks Ramon in the jaw. "The Hammer" then softens him up for his dreaded figure-four leglock. Two more punishing elbowsmashes hit their mark. But the third doesn't. It's Ramon's turn to go on the attack. He bashes Valentine's head against a steel ringpost. Back inside, he catches him in a sleeperhold and Valentine begins to fade. He has just enough stamina left to break the hold and knock Ramon down. Valentine goes for the figure-four, but Ramon pushes him away. In one smooth motion, Ramon turns Valentine around, picks him up, and delivers a thunderous "Razor's Edge." He doesn't even bother to hook the leg during the three-count.

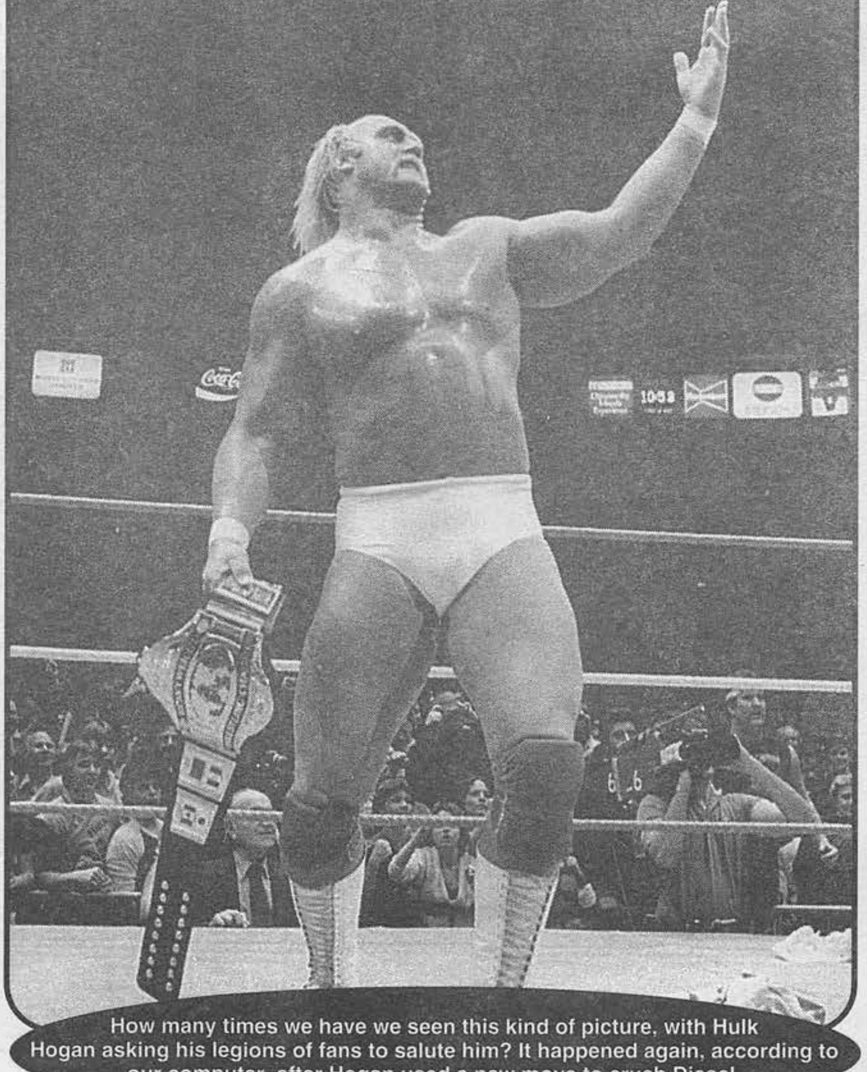
OFFICIAL DECISION: Razor Ramon, by pinfall, at 13:58.

WORLD CHAMPIONS: HULK HOGAN VS. DIESEL

The fans are standing as Hogan enters the arena. That excitement turns to shock when Ric Flair is seen escorting Diesel to ringside. Hogan tries to keep one eye on Flair as he goes nose-to-nose with Diesel. Bad move. Just as he did to Backlund when he won the WWF World title, Diesel boots Hogan in the stomach as soon as the bell rings, then goes for the "jackknife" power bomb. Sensing victory, Diesel hooks Hogan's leg, but the "Hulkster" easily kicks out. Hogan eventually goes for his clothesline-legdrop finisher. Amazingly, Diesel kicks out after that! Even Diesel isn't ready for the next move. Hogan executes the first power bomb of his career and Diesel stands no chance of getting up.

OFFICIAL DECISION: Hogan, by pinfall, at 11:22.

FINAL SCORE: 1985 WWF: 5; 1995 WWF: 4



How many times we have we seen this kind of picture, with Hulk Hogan asking his legions of fans to salute him? It happened again, according to our computer, after Hogan used a new move to crush Diesel.

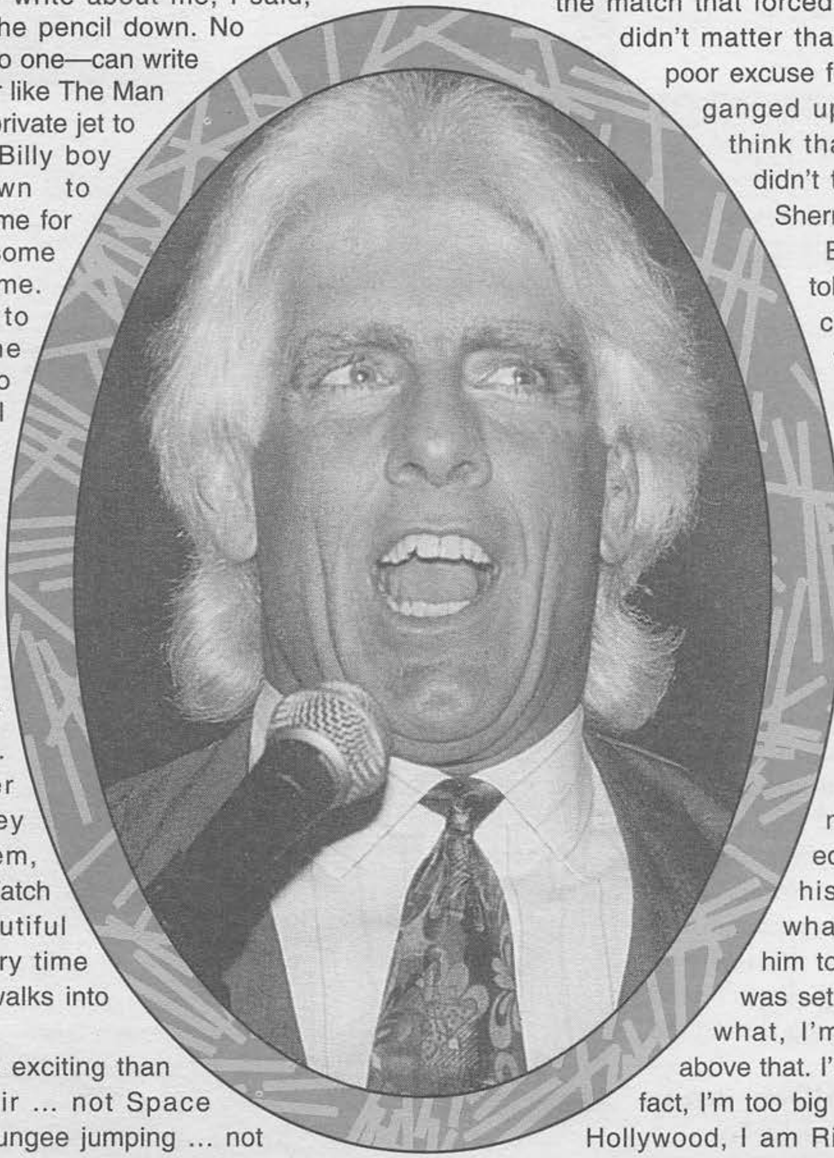
A TRIBUTE TO MYSELF

BY RIC FLAIR

WHEN BALDY BILL APTER called to ask me for an interview for a tribute he wanted to write about me, I said, "Brother Bill, put the pencil down. No one—and I mean no one—can write a tribute to Ric Flair like The Man himself. I sent my private jet to Pennsylvania so Billy boy cold come down to Charlotte and join me for a little party that some friends threw for me. Everyone wants to pay tribute to the "Nature Boy." Who can blame them? I even let Bill ride with me in the limousine so he could see what it's like to live in style.

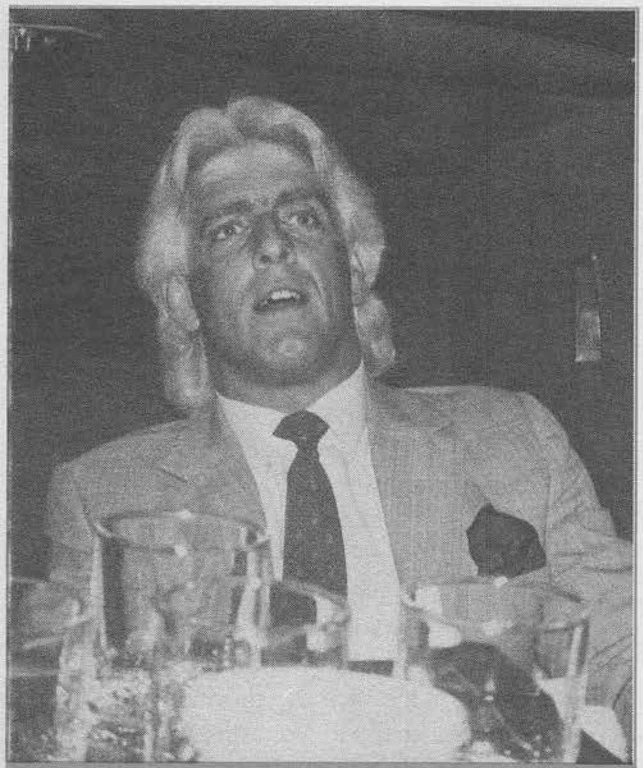
Whooooooo, I am the greatest wrestler ever to grace the face of this great Earth. How many other men can say they won 10—count 'em, 10—world titles? Watch how all the beautiful ladies squeal every time the "Nature Boy" walks into an arena!

Nothing is more exciting than watching Ric Flair ... not Space Mountain ... not bungee jumping ... not parachuting from 40,000 feet.



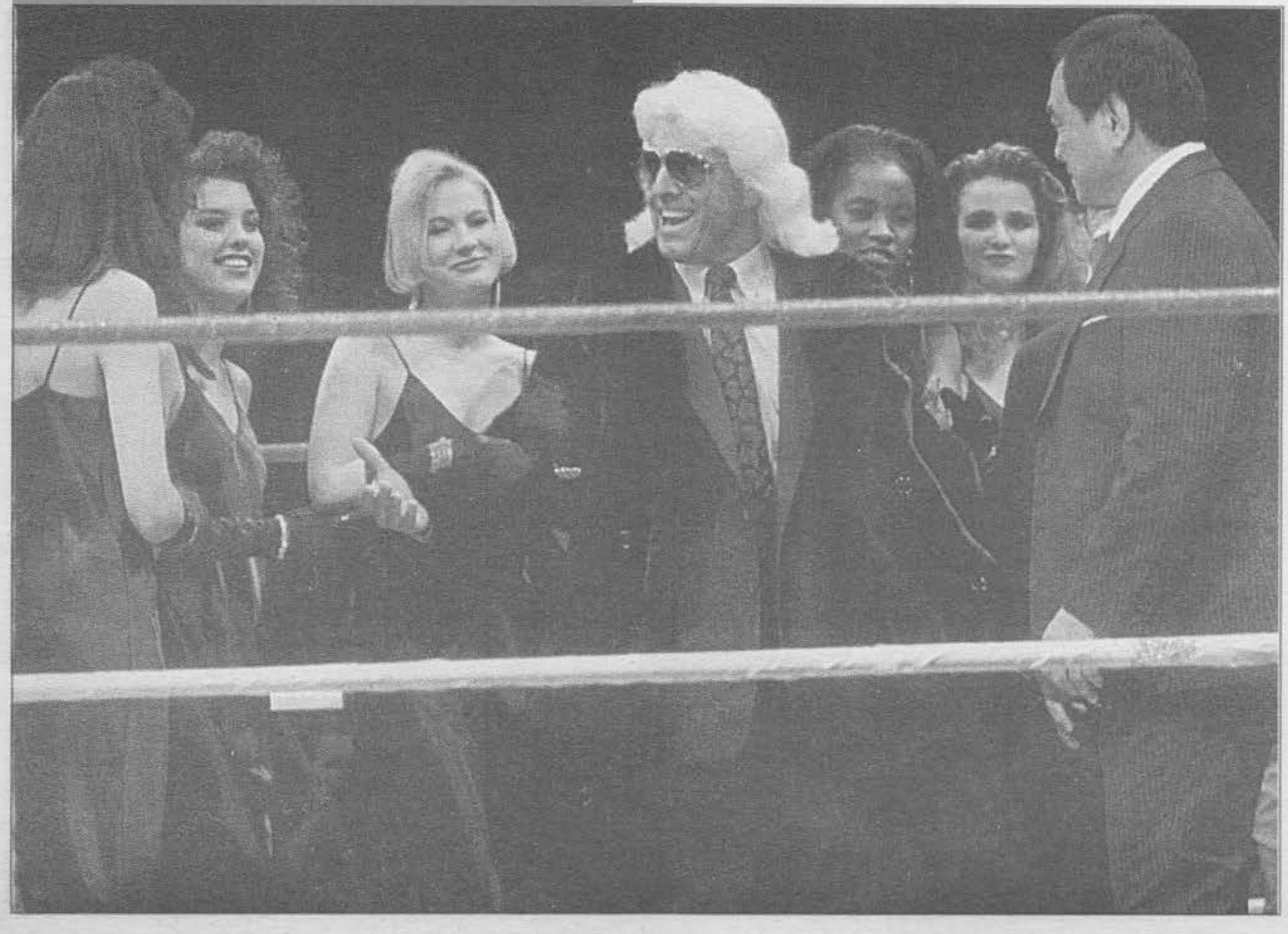
Now, before I go on, let's get one thing out of the way. Let's talk about the match with Hulk Hogan—the match that forced my retirement. It didn't matter that Hogan and that poor excuse for a referee Mr. T ganged up on me. Do you think that was fair? Why didn't they let Sensuous Sherri referee?

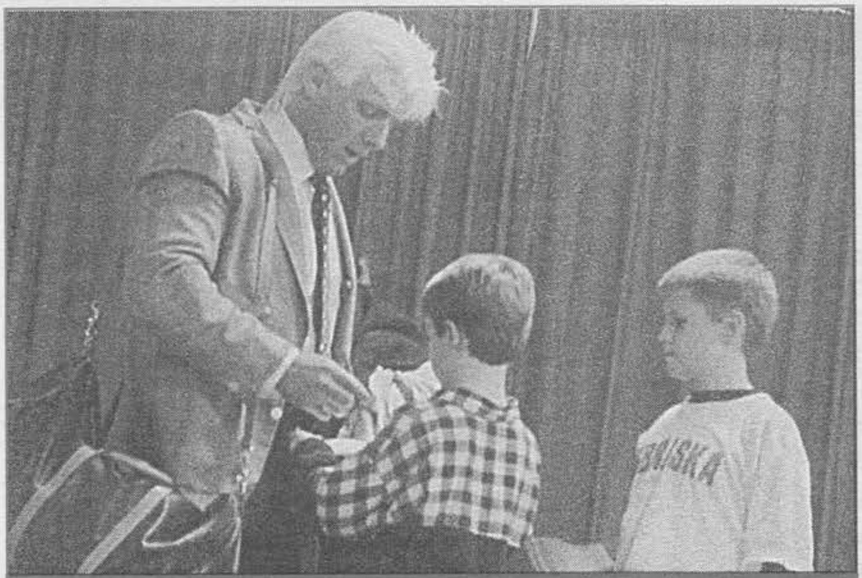
Because Hogan told WCW head honcho Nick Bockwinkel that he wouldn't give "tricky" Nick any more autographs for his friends if he didn't obey Hulk and make Mr. T the referee. When Bockwinkel heard that Hulk would cut that action off, and that he would no longer be treated like a bigshot by his friends, he did what Hogan wanted him to. I was a victim. I was set up. But you know what, I'm not crying. I'm above that. I'm too big to cry. In fact, I'm too big for wrestling. I am Hollywood, I am Ric Flair, I am still stylin' and profilin' and limousine-ridin'.



This, is what stylin' and profilin' is all about. Surround yourself with beautiful ladies wherever you go (below) and always travel in style. Sometimes I even let a few lucky people ride with me in my limousine (above).

EVEN THOUGH HE WENT OUT ON A DOWN NOTE WITH A LOSS TO WCW WORLD CHAMPION HULK HOGAN AT HALLOWEEN HAVOC, RIC FLAIR STILL DESERVES PRAISE FOR AN INCREDIBLE 21-YEAR CAREER. WHO BETTER TO PAY TRIBUTE TO FLAIR THAN THE MAN WHO LOVES HIM MOST: FLAIR HIMSELF





How many autographs have I signed over the years? More than I can count. Everywhere the "Nature Boy" goes, somebody wants a piece of him. I don't mind; I wouldn't want to deny a kid a brush with true greatness.

I don't need to prove that I can beat Hulk Hogan. History may show he beat me, but deep down in the darkness of his heart, he knows he never did it cleanly.

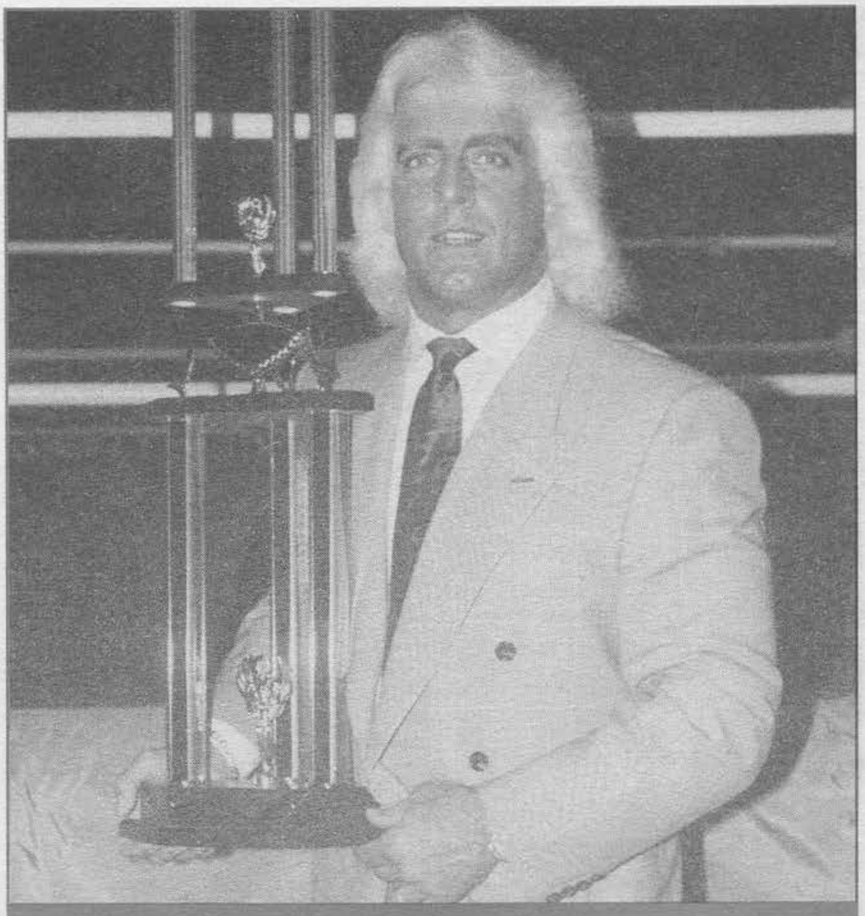
Through the years, many people have asked me, "When, 'Nature Boy,' did you realize how great you are?" Now I can finally answer that question. It was the day I was born! I was born a king, and when I die, I'll be known as the greatest king who ever walked the face of this great Earth.

Let's look through the history books, my friends, and witness the men who have fallen at my feet. None of them could ever come close to matching what I have accomplished in my career. Why? What were their shortcomings? Let's have a look: You know, some of these guys were lucky enough to win titles from me, but the true champions always find ways to win titles back. I *always* did.

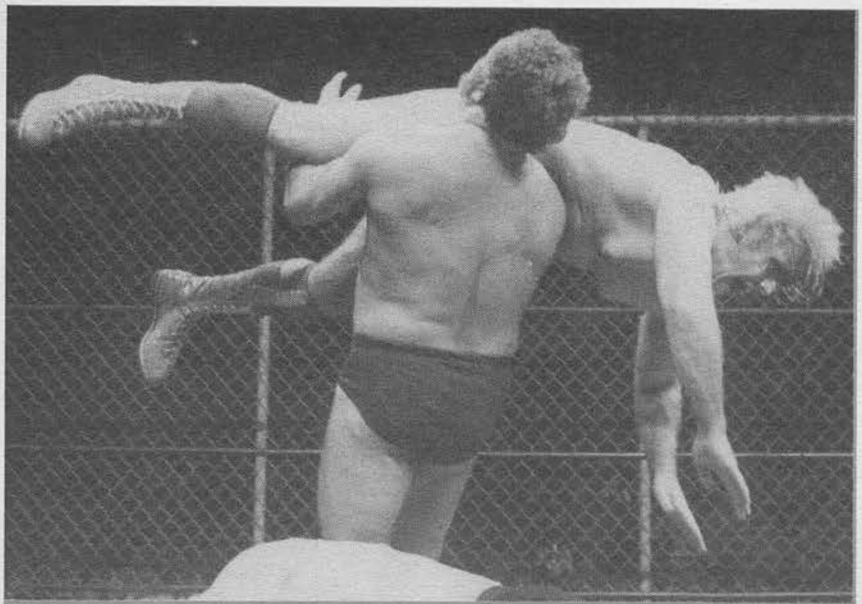
Poor Dusty Rhodes, he always wanted to be as great as me, but I proved to be his master. Had he taken the same time to train as he did to eat, he could have been a great one. Same thing with Harley Race. Hey, big man, you thought no one would pass your seven NWA World title reigns. Then here comes Ric Flair with *10* world title reigns. Downright embarrassing, Harley, right? I'm the 60- minute man, but, Harley, 20 minutes into a match with me, you were out of steam.

Speaking of steam, Ricky Steamboat, I'll give you credit, you're one of the best, but you always lacked that killer instinct that I have.

All you people should see my trophy case. *PWI* Wrestler of the Decade ... *PWI* Wrestler of the Year—six times! Wrestler of the Universe! They don't stop coming! I had to have another room built for all my trophies and plaques. It's nice of you people to bestow them on me, but enough is enough. You're embarrassing me. I can't



Here I am posing with my *PWI* Wrestler of the Decade Trophy in 1989. From what I heard, no one else was even considered for this award, especially not some balding overrated buffoon named Hogan.



How many times did I beat Harley Race (above) over the years? More than I can count. Race was one of the all-time greats, as was Sting (below), but if you put all their accomplishments together, they still wouldn't come close to equalling mine.

afford to keep building more rooms.

By now, you all know that I am adored by more women than any other male on the planet. From society women to your everyday housewives, it's Ric Flair on their minds. Fabio, brother, step aside.

Ladies, don't worry. I'll show my face, and yes, my body, from time to time. In the meantime, you can fantasize about me. Go right ahead. It's something that all women do once in a while.

I'll let you in on something: I took a survey of some of wrestling's most well-known competitors, and here's what they said about me, King Ric:

Hulk Hogan: "I'm glad Flair is gone. Now I won't have to cheat to win any more because, without question, he is the only man who could have beaten me cleanly."

Sting: "Flair's retirement was the saddest day in my life. He was the one man who could beat me every night of the week, and sometimes twice on Sundays."

Bret Hart: "I'm glad Flair retired so he won't be able to come to the WWF and beat me anymore."

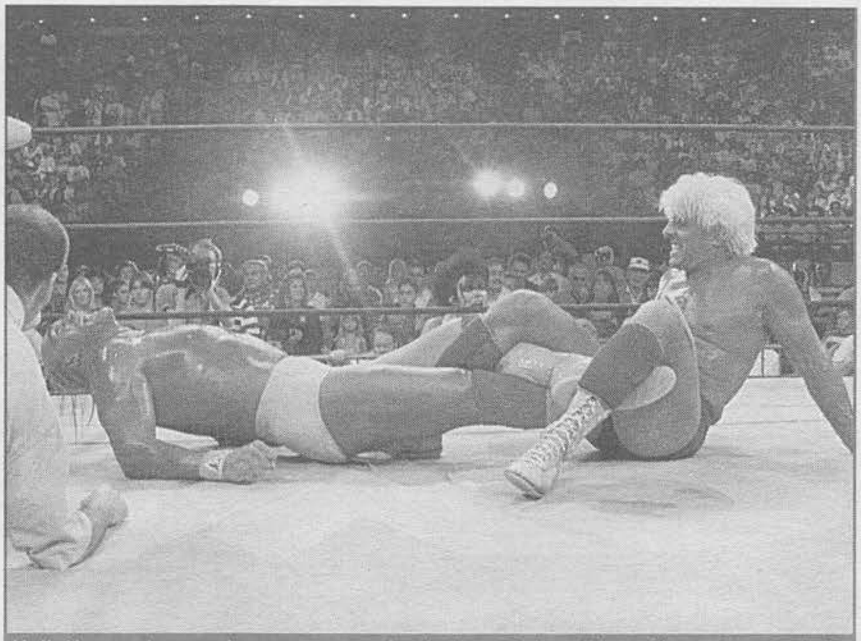
Dusty Rhodes: "Ricky Flair is the real 'American Dream.' I wish I could have had a career even half as great as him. Ricky Flair was, and will always be, an inspiration to all the children of the world. He's still an inspiration to me."

Dusty, I couldn't have said it better. Parents hope that their young boys will grow up to be just like me. They raise them to emulate the world's greatest male: Ric Flair.

There they are, just a few of the greats, laying it on the line about me, the great Ric Flair.

I could go on and on, but no. Bill Apter says this is all the space I'm allowed. You should dedicate 50 issues to me, not just a measly four pages! I'm upset. I'm insulted. But most of all, I'm Ric Flair!

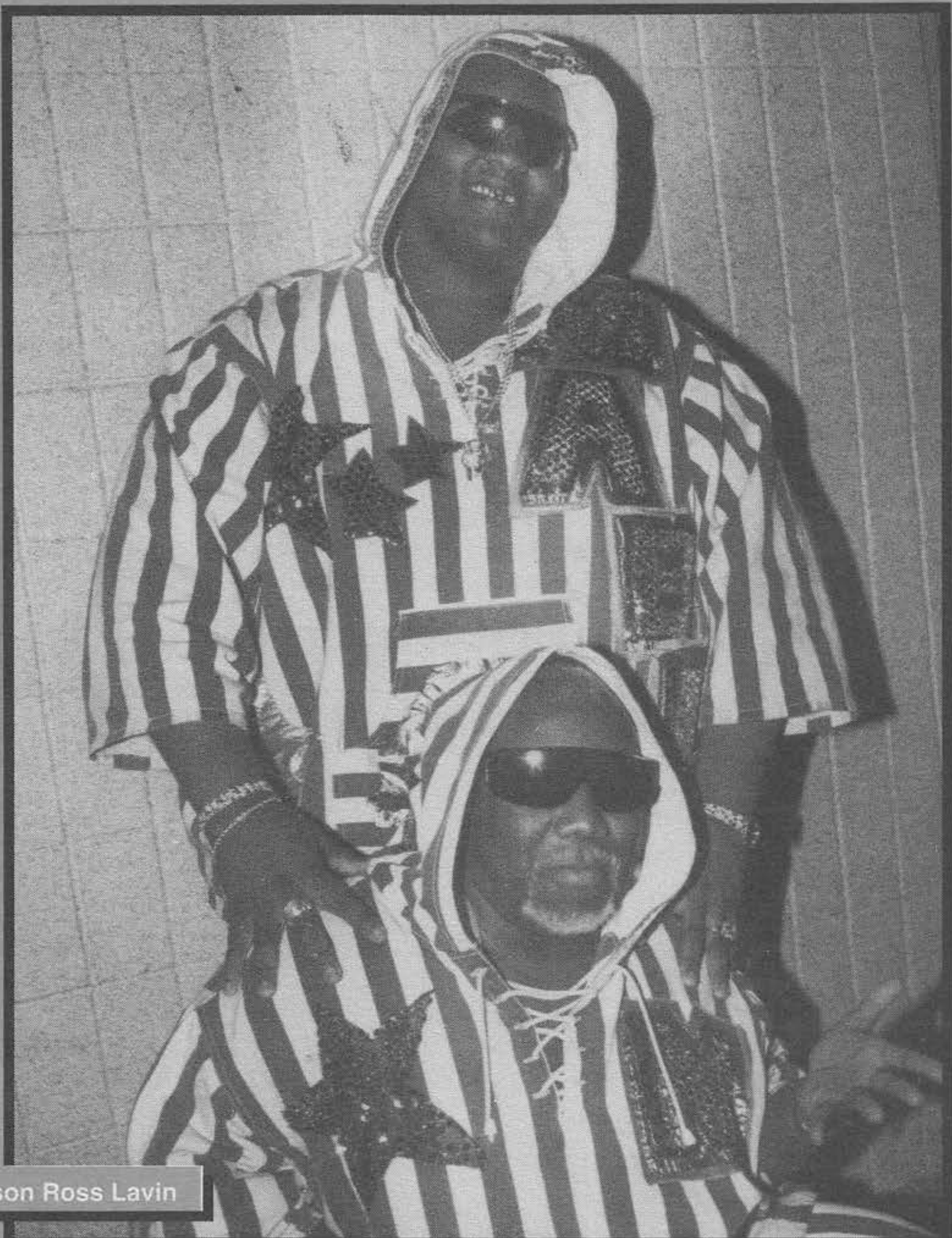
Don't you wish you were? □



Hulk Hogan deserved every ounce of pain I gave him with my figure-four leglock. He's the world's biggest phony. I hope you all realize that one day. I still wonder what would have happened if he had given me a fair match.

TITLE-BOUND AGAIN!

MEN ON A MISSION REGAIN MO-MENTUM



Photos by Jason Ross Lavin

By Dave Rosenbaum

WHEN MEN ON a Mission won the WWF World tag team title last March, the reaction registered on the Richter scale as complete shock. The last time Mabel and Mo successfully double-teamed anything, it was the Big Value Meal menu at McDonald's ... supersized.

They held the belts for two days during a tour of England before The Quebecers reclaimed them, sending Mo and Mabel on a mission back to the United States. They haven't been the same since.

But they're back now, registering that God-awful combined weight of 704 pounds and literally shaking up things in the WWF and the USWA. Mabel hasn't been the same since Mo was injured at the hands of an Owen Hart "sharpshooter" this summer, but these partners in crime—eating, rapping, and just about anything else two very big, very grown men can do together—are about to make a very big thump in the WWF.

The situation is right. Mo reports he's fit and ready to rumble after spending a few months on the sidelines. Mabel, sharpened by his singles activity during Mo's absence, thinks he's better than ever. Oscar, their rhythmic manager, doesn't see how anybody in the WWF can stop them.

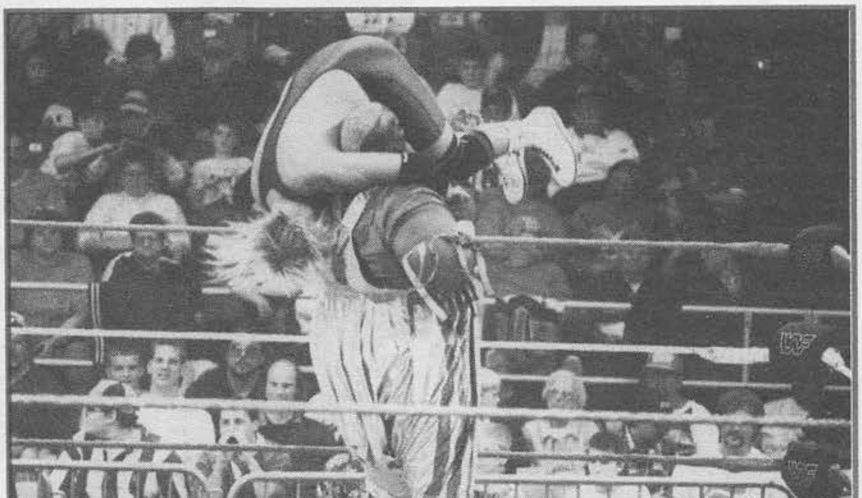
And the time is right.

Shawn Michaels and Diesel are out. The Headshrinkers are simply too inconsistent and unstable. The Bushwhackers are too nuts. Only Mabel and Mo—those Men on a Mission—have the drive to regain the glory they had for only two days overseas.

"All of our fans have the right to

Mo and Mabel might not be the best scientific wrestlers in the world, but they know how to put all of their 704 pounds behind their double-team maneuvers. Barry Hardy will vouch for that!

THE BIG MEN ARE BACK IN TOWN. MO IS BACK WITH MABEL, AND MEN ON A MISSION ARE READY FOR ANOTHER ASSAULT ON THE WWF WORLD TAG TEAM TITLE. THEIR IMPACT COULD BE THUNDEROUS



It's a long trip downward when Mabel uses a back-bodydrop on you. The Harlem. He had an up-and-down solo career while Mo was out. But with the WWF tag team scene so weak, he and his partner have a good shot at winning the tag title.

see Men on a Mission with those belts strapped around their waists," Oscar said. "The WWF is going to have to resize them, but it's going to be worth their while because my men are gonna have those belts for a good long time. Let me tell you something: I've never seen them so excited."

The relationship between Mo and Mabel was solidified in a predictable way. Mabel was wrestling USWA champion Sid Vicious in Memphis. Spellbinder, who has this thing about interfering in just about all of Sid's matches, did it once again and helped Vicious double-team Mabel. Mabel was having his extraordinary body rearranged, piece by piece, when Mo made his return.

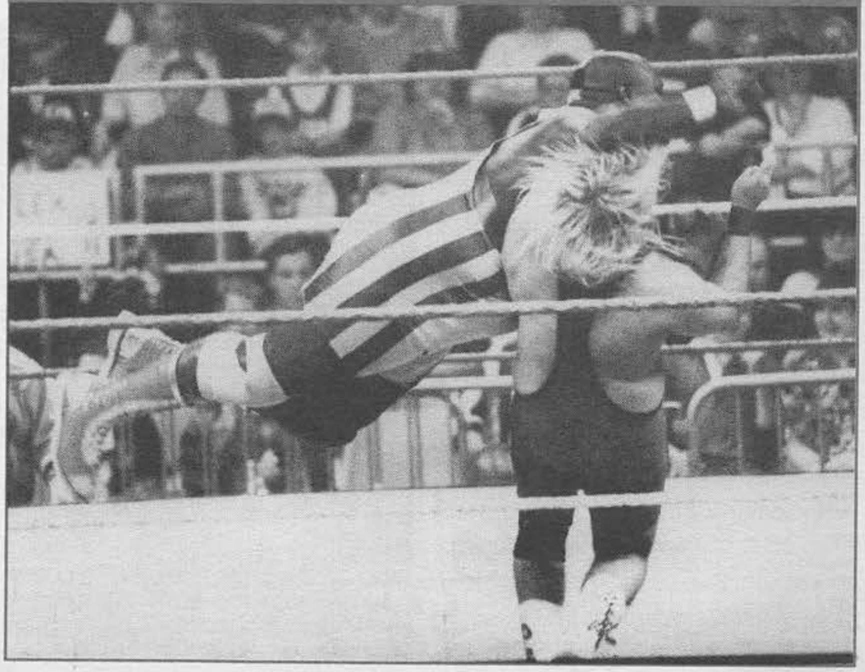
Mo later commented that even if he were still injured, there was no way he was going to let Vicious and Spellbinder beat two tons of stuffing out of his friend and partner. But, Mo was happy to report, he wasn't injured. He was as rested and as healthy as could be.

That didn't mean Mo would wrestle at Survivor Series. The sides had already been announced and Mabel wrestled in a 10-man tag team match with four other partners. In the weeks prior to Survivor Series, Men on a Mission regained their edge by destroying the lowest of the WWF tag team crop. The competition, however, did not matter. Mabel and Mo got used to working together again and entertained their fans with a little rap music.

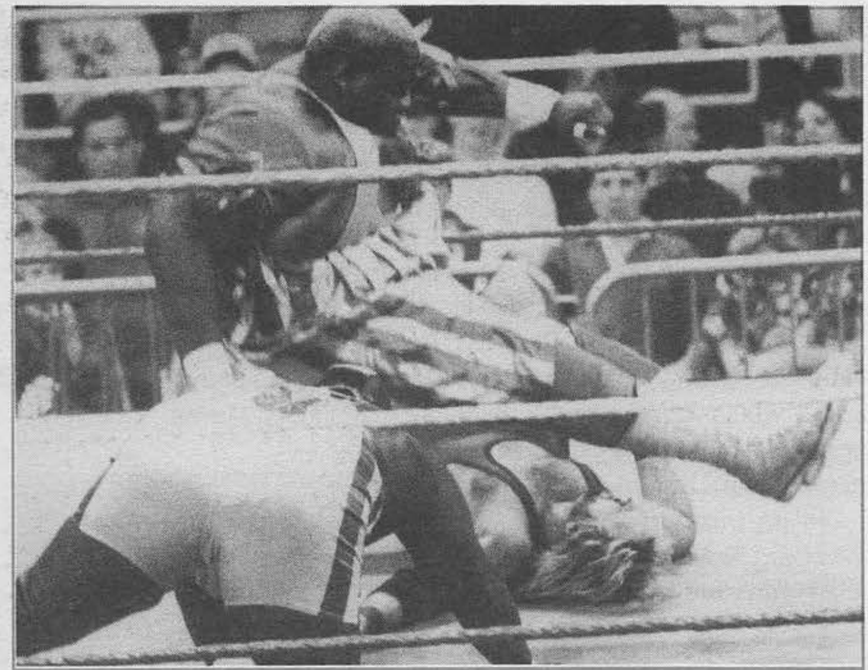
"You should have seen the look on the kids' faces when Mo and Mabel came to the ring," Oscar said. "They were so happy to have Men on a Mission back in town. Kids need role models these days, and I couldn't think of better role models than my two men right here. Diesel and Michaels were sending the wrong message about friendship and everything else. All The Quebecers did was cheat. My men here only send a message about friendship and working hard. You got to look out for the boys in the 'hood.

"We'll take on any team the WWF has to offer. The Heavenly Bodies, The Smokin' Gunns, anyone. We're confident and you know we'll always have the people on our side."

Things have never looked better



Since returning, Mo has shown no lingering effects of the leg injury he suffered at the hands of Owen Hart. He handled Hardy with a bodyslam (above) and even left his feet to deliver a punishing elbowsmash (below).



Mabel is no Hulk Hogan, but no one gets up after being crushed by his legdrop, either. Men on a Mission might not look like great athletes, but how many WWF teams actually have better talent and teamwork?

for Men on a Mission. Only another team of fan favorites, The Headshrinkers, seems to stand in their way of another World tag team title. While the cynics suggest that a team in such poor physical condition as Men on a Mission should have no chance to win the belts, a realist knows that size means a lot in wrestling, and Mack truck-like bulk can be unstoppable.

Men on a Mission are still vulnerable to a team of cagey scientific wrestlers—men such as Jeff Jarrett and Owen Hart proved that beyond any doubt—but throw the usual WWF tag team garbage at them and they should have little trouble eating it up. That's the way things are these days in the WWF.

Meanwhile, Mabel, Mo, and Oscar are approaching the situation as if The Road Warriors, The Midnight Express, The British Bulldogs, and The Hart Foundation were lined up in their paths. Only a return to action by Rick and Scott Steiner would knock them out of realistic contention for the vacant belts.

Times have changed.

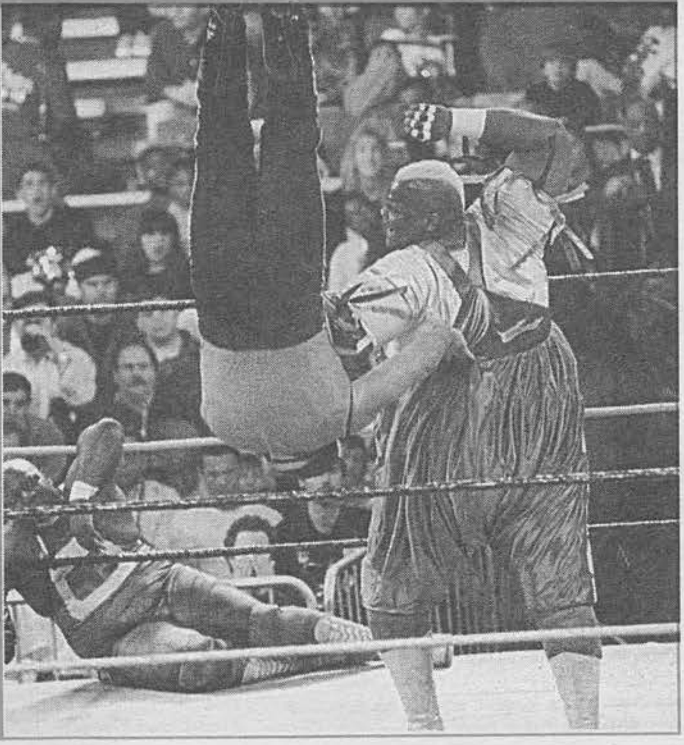
The men are Mabel and Mo.

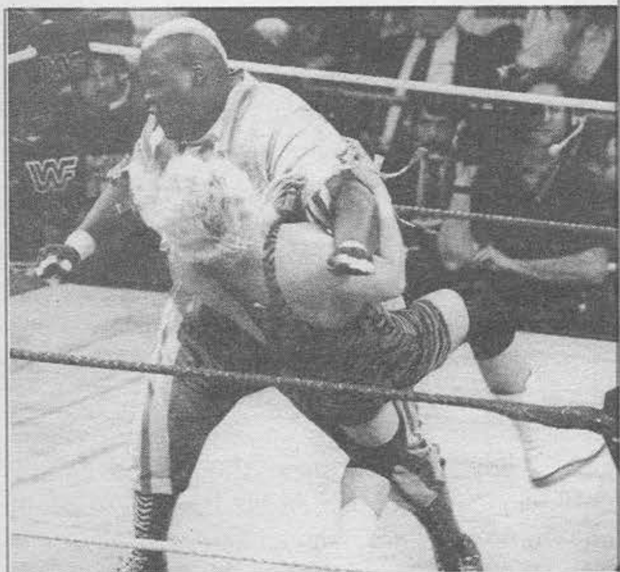
The mission is to win the World tag team championship.

"We'll do it this time," Oscar said. "The last time was just practice. We didn't even get a chance to try the belts on for size. Now it's going to be different. You just watch."

Men on a Mission will be rapping to a winning tune. □

Perseverance was the key to M.O.M.'s victory over The Quebecers for the belts last March. They received many shots at Jacques and Pierre before finally winning the championship in England.





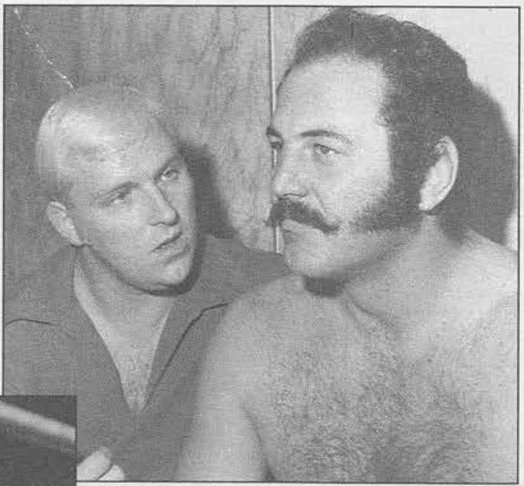
Mabel flattens Hardy with a clothesline. M.O.M. know what it's like to be champions. They briefly held the tag team belts last spring and their manager, Oscar, suggests that the WWF resize the belts so they will fit his men.

SCRAPBOOK

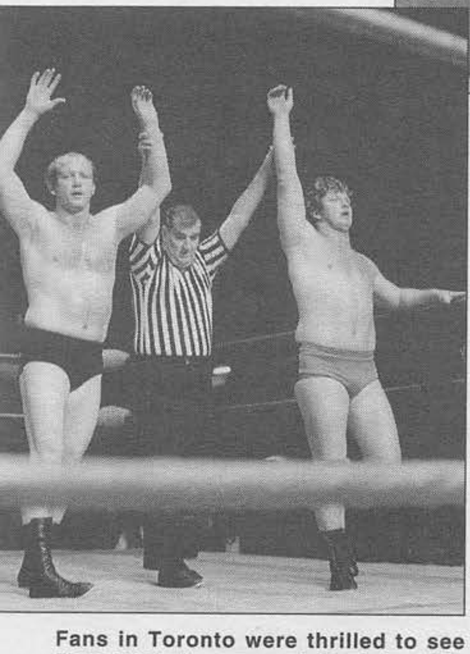
Explore with us the rich history of this great sport as we recall the important news stories at five–year intervals dating back a quarter of a century.

MARCH/APRIL 1970

IN A GRUELING half-hour match, Dory Funk Jr. defended his NWA World title against Gene Kiniski, the man whom he had defeated for the championship one year earlier. The crowd of 15,000 at Toronto's Maple Leaf Gardens was delighted at the result as Funk left with his belt ... Funk denied the report that he was using his kid brother, Terry, as a "policeman" for his title ... Rocky Johnson won a Los Angeles 22-man battle royal and a check for $11,000 when he pinned The Oregon Lumberjack ... In an interview with *Inside Wrestling*, Bobby Heenan, already a 21-year-old millionaire, disclosed that he was unhappy. He started his career as a wrestler, he said, because he was feeling unimportant as a manager, despite the success of Blackjack Lanza ... Haystacks Calhoun and Man Mountain Mike—at a combined 1,200 pounds—defeated U.S. tag team champions Kenji Shibuya and Mr. Saito by disqualification ... Nick Bockwinkel was handily defeating all competition by night and picking up a deep suntan by day in Hawaii ... Mark Lewin captured the Pacific Northwest title by winning a best-of-three-falls match from Moondog Mayne.



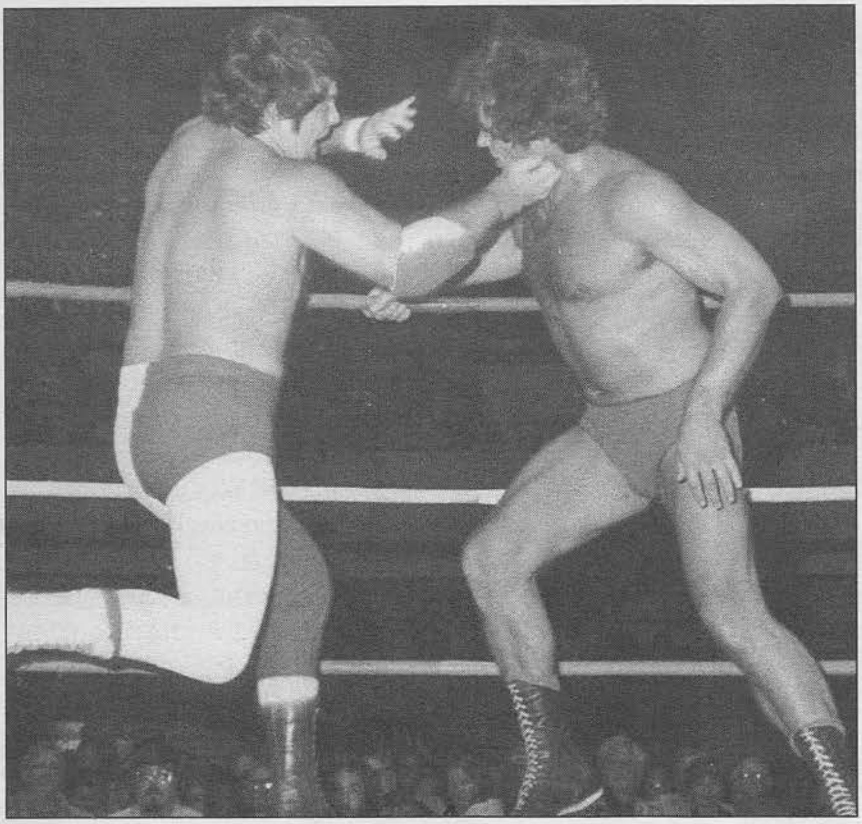
Bobby Heenan wasn't a happy young man in 1970. Though his protege Blackjack Lanza was having a lot of success in the ring, he said he wasn't feeling fulfilled as a manager.



Fans in Toronto were thrilled to see Dory Funk Jr. successfully defend his NWA World title against Gene Kiniski in 1970. Meanwhile, Dory insisted his brother Terry wasn't acting as a policeman for his title.

MARCH/APRIL 1975

ONE YEAR AFTER being sneak-attacked by Killer Krupp in the parking lot of Detroit's Cobo Arena, Pampero Firpo got revenge inside the arena. Firpo smashed Krupp from ringpost to ringpost, leaving the German a bloody mess ... Dominic DeNucci and Tony Parisi captured the Florida tag team belts ... Rip Hawk on young Ric Flair: "He's one hell of a ruffian. Flair is going to be a real threat to the top stars soon" ... Pedro Morales, 16 months after losing the WWF World title to Stan Stasiak, departed the Northeast for California rings ... The Valiants—Jimmy and Johnny—retained their WWF World tag team championship against the duo of Bruno Sammartino and Chief Jay Strongbow when special referee Gorilla Monsoon gave the popular challengers the match by disqualification. Also on that Madison Square Garden card, which drew 22,000 fans, Pedro Morales, in his farewell appearance, teamed with Victor Rivera to easily dispose of Killer Kowalski and Bobby Duncum ... Jerry Lawler got a taste of the NWA championship, but for only about 15 min-



Jerry Lawler has had some short USWA title reigns, but none as short as his reign as NWA World champ in 1975. "The King" used brass knuckles to win the belt from Jack Brisco, but the decision was reversed about 15 minutes later.

utes. It seems Lawler used brass knuckles to knock Jack Brisco unconscious. Promoter Nick Gulas saw the act and informed the referee, who reversed the decision. Lawler was not even king for a day ... Edouard Carpentier retained the Americas title in a cage match with former champ John Tolos in Los Angeles ... Nick Bockwinkel screamed for an AWA World title match with Verne Gagne, who was in the seventh year of his title reign.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Jack Brisco; 2—Dory Funk Jr.; 3—The Sheik; 4—Dusty Rhodes; 5—Dick Murdoch; 6—Paul Jones; 7—Jerry Lawler; 8—Bruiser; 9—Terry Funk; 10—Peter Maivia.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Chief Jay Strongbow; 3—Butcher Vachon; 4—Pedro Morales; 5—Waldo Von Erich; 6—Spiros Arion; 7—Victor Rivera; 8—The Wolfman; 9—Killer Kowalski; 10—Bobby Duncum.

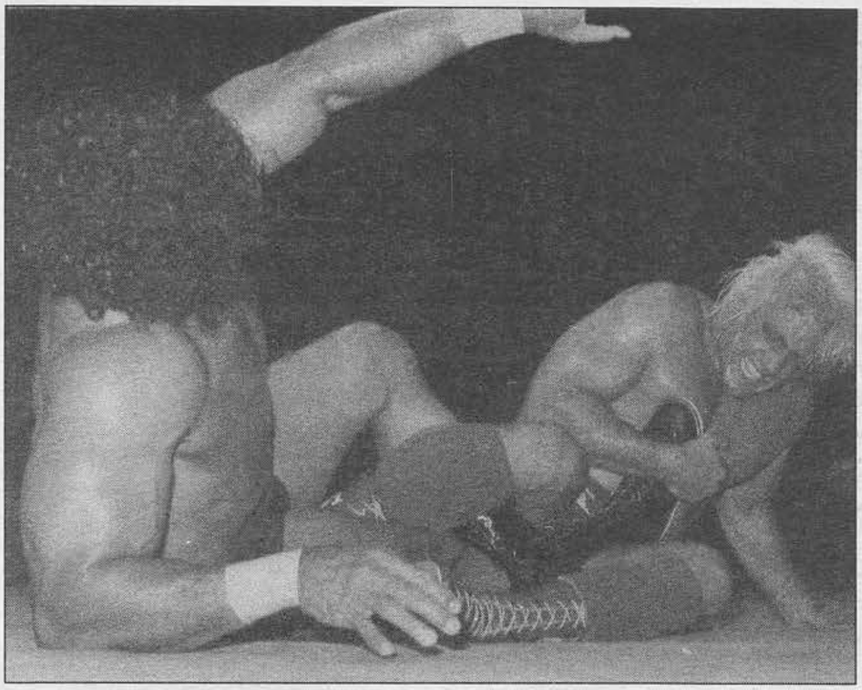
AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Billy Robinson; 3—Superstar Graham; 4—Crusher; 5—Larry Hennig; 6—Baron Von Raschke; 7—Ray Stevens; 8—Nick Bockwinkel; 9—Ivan Putski; 10—Greg Gagne.

TAG TEAMS: 1—The Valiants; 2—Nick Bockwinkel & Ray Stevens; 3—Angelo & Lanny Poffo; 4—The Andersons; 5—The Mongols; 6—Buddy Colt & Roger Kirby; 7—Tony Parisi & Dominic DeNucci; 8—The Kelly Twins; 9—The Von Brauners; 10—The Hollywood Blonds.

Former Olympian Ken Patera won two titles in less than a week in April 1980. Four days after capturing the WWF intercontinental title, he pinned Kevin Von Erich for the Missouri title.

MARCH/APRIL 1980

KEN PATERA HAD one of the best weeks any wrestler has ever had. On April 21, Patera defeated Pat Patterson for the WWF Intercontinental championship. Four days later, the former Olympian defeated Kevin Von Erich for the Missouri title ... Former WWF World champion Bruno Sammartino went berserk in Madison Square Garden as he



A bitter feud between Ric Flair and Jimmy Snuka continued in 1980. Flair used the figure-four leglock en route to winning the U.S. title from the "Superfly."

tried to choke the life out of his former protege, Larry Zbyszko. "Something snapped inside of me," Bruno told reporters afterward ... Eddie Gilbert extended his winning streak to 35 matches ... Ric Flair captured the United States heavyweight crown from the hated Jimmy Snuka ... In Georgia, Ernie Ladd sneak-attacked Chief Jay Strongbow, bloodying the Chief and ripping his sacred headdress. The Chief vowed revenge ... Much to the fans' chagrin, Ivan Koloff and Alexis Smirnoff defeated Tony Atlas and Kevin Sullivan to capture the Georgia tag team belts ... Mr. Wrestling II defeated NWA World champion Harley Race in a non-title match, putting him in line for a title bout ... Roddy Piper courted the fans' approval in the Pacific Northwest ... Capt. Lou Albano's Samoans defeated Ivan Putski and Tito Santana to win the WWF World tag team championship in Philadelphia.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Harley Race; 2—Dusty Rhodes; 3—Ken Patera; 4—Ric Flair; 5—Mr. Wrestling II; 6—Don Muraco; 7—Austin Idol; 8—Kevin Von Erich; 9—Stan Stasiak; 10—Jim Brunzell.

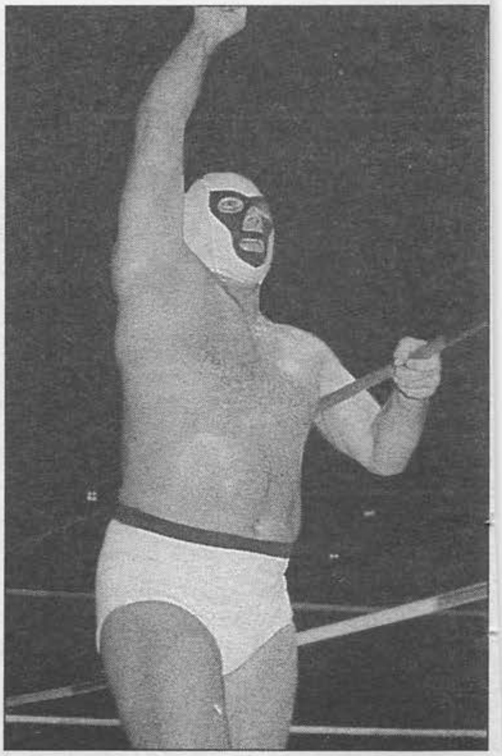
WWF RATINGS: 1—Bob Backlund; 2—Larry Zbyszko; 3—Hulk Hogan; 4—Ken Patera; 5—Pat Patterson; 6—Ivan Putski; 7—Tony Atlas; 8—Pedro Morales; 9—Tito Santana; 10—Bobby Duncum.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Nick Bockwinkel; 2—Crusher; 3—Dino Bravo; 4—Verne Gagne; 5—Greg Gagne; 6—Billy Robinson; 7—Mad Dog Vachon; 8—Jesse Ventura; 9—Jerry Lawler; 10—Adrian Adonis.

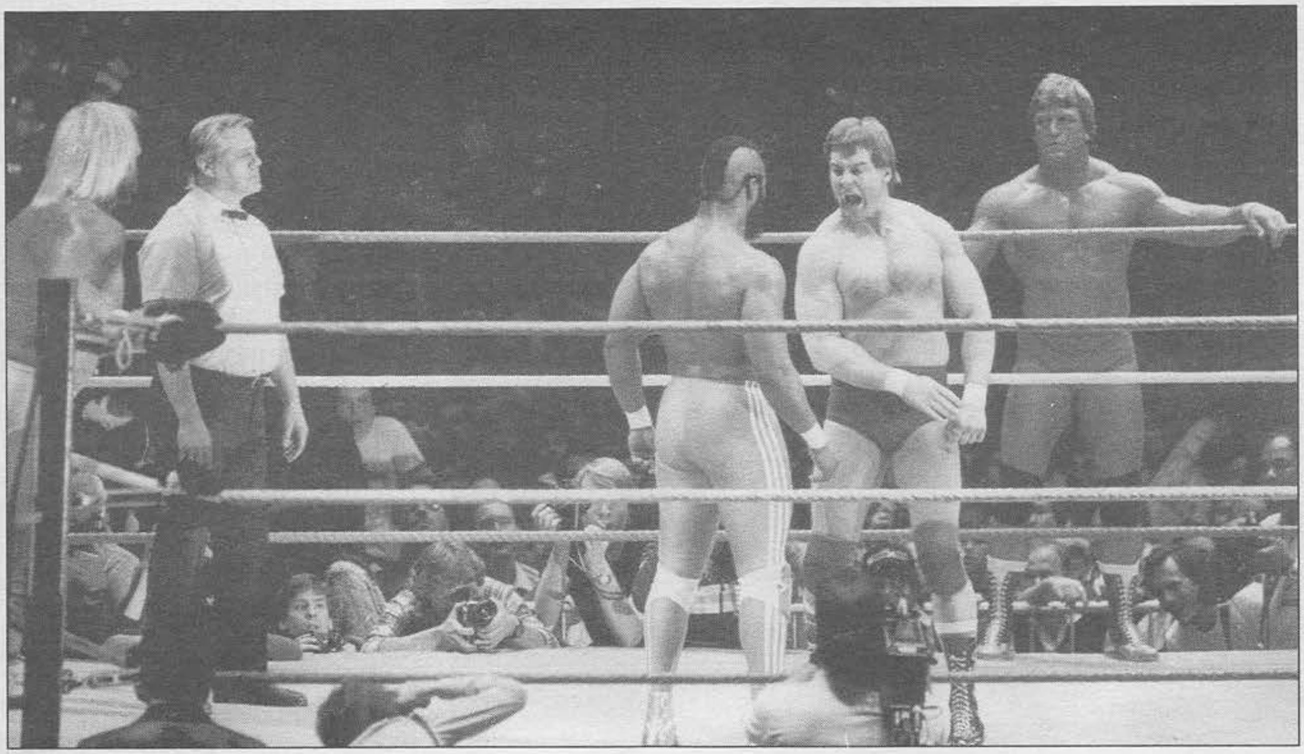
TAG TEAMS: 1—The Samoans; 2—Greg Valentine & Ray Stevens; 3—Verne Gagne & Mad Dog Vachon; 4—Jack Brisco & Jim Garvin; 5—Kevin Sullivan & Tony Atlas; 6—Ivan Putski & Tito Santana; 7—Masked Superstars; 8—Mr. Hito & Mr. Sakurada; 9—Ivan Koloff & Alexis Smirnoff; 10—Tommy & Eddie Gilbert.

MARCH/APRIL 1985

THE WWF MADE history with the inaugural WrestleMania on March 31 at Madison Square Garden. In the main event, Hulk Hogan and Mr. T defeated Roddy Piper and Paul Orndorff. Also on the card, Wendi Richter regained the WWF World Women's title from Lelani Kai; The Iron Sheik and Nikolai Volkoff captured the World tag team title from Barry Windham and Mike Rotundo; and Andre the Giant slammed Big John Studd to win $15,000, which he promptly threw into the audience ... Magnum T.A. defeated Wahoo McDaniel in a steel cage match to win the U.S. title ... Ted DiBiase was banned from the Mid-South area when he



Mr. Wrestling II surprised some people by beating NWA World champion Harley Race in a non-title match in 1980. He was never able to best Race with the belt on the line, however.



The first WrestleMania was held in 1985. Mr. T teamed with his good friend Hulk Hogan to beat the hated duo of Roddy Piper and "Mr. Wonderful" Paul Orndorff.

lost a loser-leaves-town steel cage match to Hacksaw Duggan ... Ole and Arn Anderson won the National tag team belts after defeating Thunderbolt Patterson and Manny Fernandez in Charlotte, North Carolina. Until that match, Ole had one of the tag team belts and Patterson had the other ... A month earlier, Fernandez and Dusty Rhodes lost the NWA World tag team title to Ivan and Nikita Koloff ... Fred Blassie became manager of George "The Animal" Steele ... Randy Savage captured the Mid-Southern title from Jerry Lawler, thanks to interference from Savage's manager, Tux Newman. Also in Newman's stable: Savage's brother, Lanny Poffo.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Ric Flair; 2—Magnum T.A.; 3—Jerry Blackwell; 4—Dusty Rhodes; 5—Ronnie Garvin; 6—Chris Adams; 7—Rick Rude; 8—Buzz Tyler; 9—Brian Blair; 10—Kerry Von Erich.

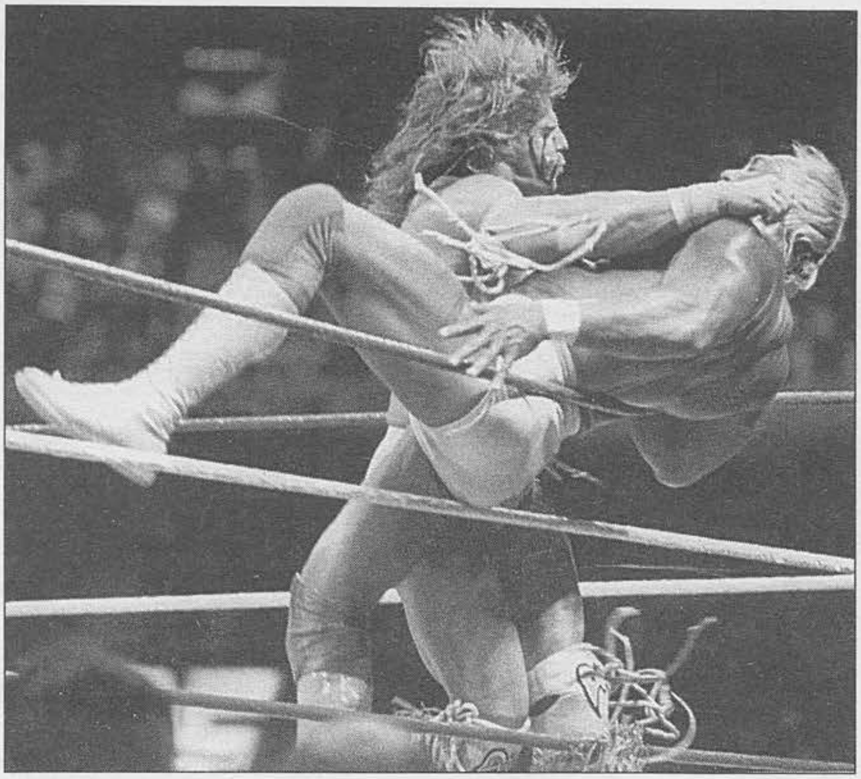
WWF RATINGS: 1—Hulk Hogan; 2—Greg Valentine; 3—Roddy Piper; 4—Tito Santana; 5—Magnificent Muraco; 6—Junkyard Dog; 7—Ken Patera; 8—Paul Orndorff; 9—John Studd; 10—Jimmy Snuka.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Rick Martel; 2—Larry Zbyszko; 3—Jim Garvin; 4—Bob Backlund; 5—Sgt. Slaughter; 6—King Tonga; 7—Nick Bockwinkel; 8—The Tonga Kid; 9—Jerry Blackwell; 10—Butch Reed.

TAG TEAMS: 1—The Road Warriors; 2—Ivan & Nikita Koloff; 3—Nikolai Volkoff & The Iron Sheik; 4—Rick Morton & Robert Gibson; 5—Steve Keirn & Stan Lane; 6—Ron Bass & Black Bart; 7—Dennis Condrey & Bobby Eaton; 8—Dusty Rhodes & Manny Fernandez; 9—Rick Rude & Jesse Barr; 10—Dynamite Kid & Davey Boy Smith.

MARCH/APRIL 1990

JERRY LAWLER DEFEATED Jimmy Valiant for the USWA title in Memphis. Less than one month later, Valiant won the title back in Memphis ... Intercontinental champ The Ultimate Warrior defeated WWF World champ Hulk Hogan for the World title on April 1 in Toronto at WrestleMania VI. Warrior's victory left the Intercontinental title vacant ... On the same card, Demolition—Ax and Smash—who were managed by Bobby Heenan, won the World tag team belts from The Colossal Connection, Andre the Giant and Haku ... Larry Zbyszko won the AWA World title from Mr. Saito in St. Paul, Minnesota ... A tournament was held to declare a new Intercontinental champion; "Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig defeated Tito Santana to win the tournament and claim the title ... It was reported in *Pro Wrestling*



It was title vs. title when Intercontinental champion The Ultimate Warrior battled WWF World champion Hulk Hogan at WrestleMania VI. Warrior pinned the "Hulkster" cleanly, leaving the I-C belt temporarily vacant.

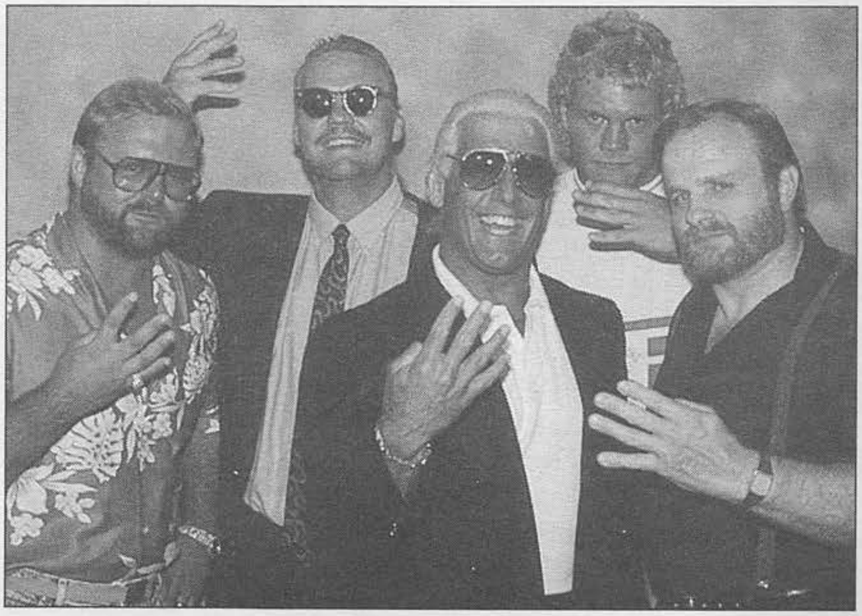
Illustrated that Hulk Hogan might leave the wrestling ring for a career in Hollywood ... Tully Blanchard entered the AWA ... The Powers of Pain split up when manager Mr. Fuji sold their contracts to different managers: The Barbarian went to Bobby Heenan and The Warlord went to Slick ... Otto Wanz, a former AWA World heavyweight champion, retired after 22 years in the sport ... Carlos Colon captured his ninth World Wrestling Council title by defeating Abdullah the Butcher ... Woman was employed as an adviser to The Four Horsemen ... Injuries to several NWA wrestlers kept them sidelined: Sting ruptured his left patella; NWA TV champion Arn Anderson suffered a pinched a nerve in his right arm; and Buzz Sawyer injured his left hand ... Barry Windham and Sid Vicious joined The Four Horsemen ... The Western Wrestling Alliance made its debut, promoting cards throughout the western United States. The top stars were Ivan and Scott Putski, The Russian Brute, and Paul Orndorff ... Gory Guerrero died on April 18. He was the father of Mando, Chavo, and Hector Guerrero.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Ric Flair; 2—Lex Luger; 3—Norman; 4—Mike Rotundo; 5—Brian Pillman; 6—Kevin Sullivan; 7—Tommy Rich; 8—Samoan Savage; 9—Cactus Jack; 10—Bam Bam Bigelow.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Larry Zbyszko; 2—Nikita Koloff; 3—Sgt. Slaughter; 4—Mr. Saito; 5—John Nord; 6—Tully Blanchard; 7—D.J. Peterson; 8—Col. DeBeers; 9—Johnnie Stewart; 10—Tommy Jammer.

WWF RATINGS: 1—The Ultimate Warrior; 2—Curt Hennig; 3—Rick Rude; 4—Hulk Hogan; 5—Earthquake; 6—Dusty Rhodes; 7—Randy Savage; 8—Ted DiBiase; 9—Rick Martel; 10—Jake Roberts.

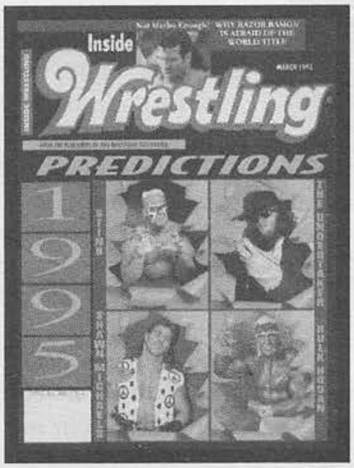
TAG TEAMS: 1—Rick & Scott Steiner; 2—Demolition; 3—Brian Pillman & Tom Zenk; 4—Doom; 5—The Road Warriors; 6—The Hart Foundation; 7—The Rockers; 8—Mike Enos & Wayne Bloom; 9—Rex King & Steve Doll; 10—Jeff Warner & Art Barr. □



The Four Horsemen got two new members in April 1990. Sid Vicious and Barry Windham entered the rulebreaking stable, joining Ric Flair, Arn Anderson, and manager Ole Anderson.

this month in...

Inside Wrestling

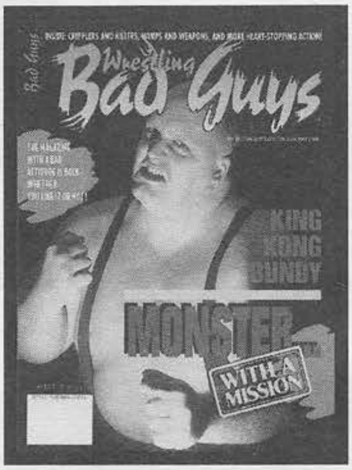


What does 1995 have in store for the top wrestlers in the world? No one knows for sure, but we're willing to speculate. Read our predictions for such superstars as **HULK HOGAN**, **STING**, **DIESEL**, **BIG VAN VADER**, **SHAWN MICHAELS**, **SABU**, and others ... **RAZOR RAMON** is the "Bad Guy". He oozes machismo. He's a two-time Intercontinental champion. Could a man this tough actually be afraid of success? Afraid of challenging for the *World* title? That's what we're hearing ... Who's the nastiest tag team of them all? How aabout the *PWI* tag team of the year for 1994, **THE NASTY BOYS**? They don't like hearing people say they are no great tag teams anymore and they let us know it in "Hotseat"!

All this—and much more!—in the March 1995 issue of ***Inside Wrestling***

NOW ON SALE!

Wrestling Bad Guys



BRET HART is a gentleman. He's a great WWF champion. He loves his family and would do anything to patch up his differences with his brother **OWEN**. If you believe these things, wait until you read what the editors of *Bad Guys* have found out about "The Hitman's" past. It will shock you! ... Think **BIG VAN VADER** is sadistic? You might not know just how mean this behemoth can be. He explains—in his own words—exactly what his "night of perfect of sadism" would be like ... **KING KONG BUNDY** is back in the WWF and this time he won't rest until he wins the WWF World title that eluded him in the mid-80s. He is truly a "monster with a mission."

All this—and much more!—in the Winter 1994 issue of ***Wrestling Bad Guys***

NOW ON SALE!

THINK YOU'RE BAD?

Join the IWA, create an imaginary pro wrestler, and send him into the ring. Compete against your friends and others for titles and prizes–even a real championship belt!

The Imaginary Wrestling Association: **Fun and Inexpensive** since 1985.

For a free application, send your name and address to:

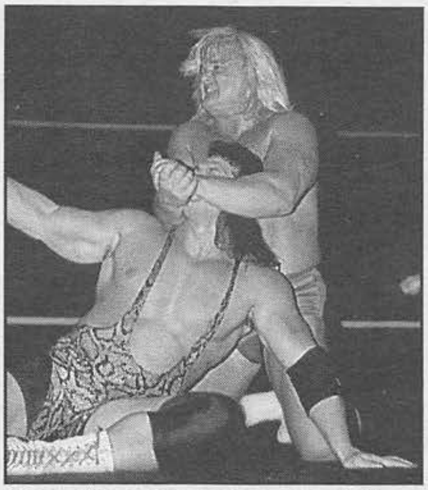
IWA
Box 5275
Willowick, Ohio 44095

It's time to find out just how bad you really are!

Copyright © 1994 Worlds Unlimited, Inc.
All Rights Reserved.

YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 16)



Greg Valentine insists his father, Johnny, never forced him to become a wrestler. He says he chose his career on his own, but thanks his famous dad for the help and guidance he has given him.

will realize what a phony Hogan is and they'll come crawling to me on their hands and knees begging me to forgive them for booing me all those years. Maybe I will and maybe I won't! *Whoooooo!*"

***

Q: "My question is for Greg Valentine: Did your father encourage you to go into wrestling, or did he try to discourage you because he was well-aware of all the injuries that could occur?"—Nancy DeSalvo, Atlantic City, NJ

A: **"Very good question, Nancy," answered Valentine. "My father, Johnny, is a very wise man, and he never pushed me into wrestling. Being the great champion that he was, though, he knew I had the right genes to be as great as him—or even better. I wanted to emulate him in every way. But he never forced me. I made the decision completely on my own. I'm enjoying a great wrestling career. And as you know, I have become a great champion. I've won all sorts of titles and I'm not through yet. I have my dad to thank for helping me along, but most of all, I give myself credit for being so great!"**

***

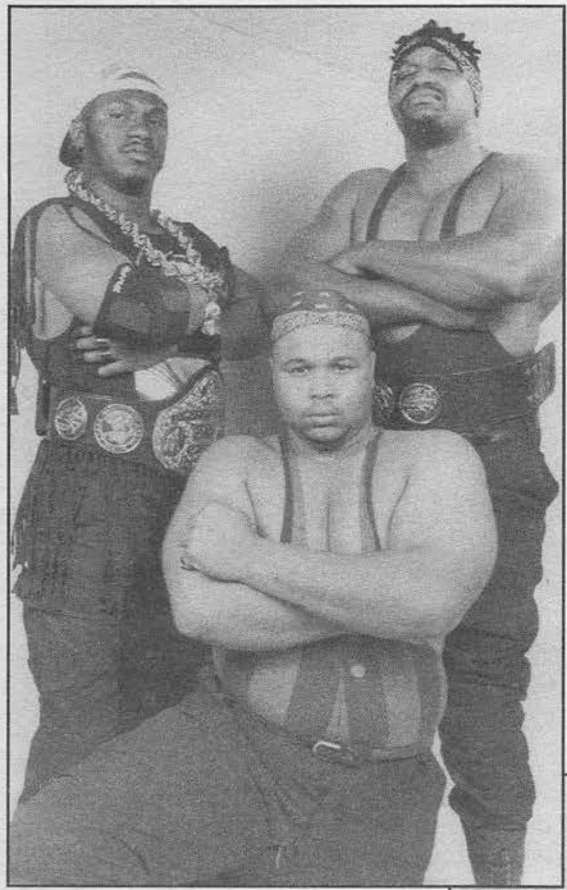
Q: "I have a question for ECW heavyweight champion Shane Douglas: There is so much history and nostalgia involved with the NWA. Why did you throw away that belt when you won it?"—Marty Poulin, Philadelphia, PA

A: **"Listen, punk, and listen good," said Douglas. "The NWA is dead. Buried. Old news. Shane Douglas is the greatest professional wrestler in the world today, bar none. I knew I would win that tournament back in August, and the NWA didn't deserve to have a champion as good as me. I've been in ECW for quite a while now, and they've given me the chance I needed. Now I'm going to continue to show the world that I am—without a doubt—the very best! The NWA can keep going if they want to, but I could beat any champion they crown blindfolded with one hand tied behind my back."** □

It's obvious that Shane Douglas has no regrets about renouncing the NWA title back in August. He still considers the NWA a dead federation and is confident he could beat any wrestler from the NWA without a problem.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 7)



The Gangstas have caused problems for The Rock 'n' Roll Express in Smoky Mountain for months. Now New Jack and Mustafa Saed (background) are training their bodyguard—"Security"—for his ring debut.

knows it, but **Cactus Jack** actually had dinner with **Boo Bradley** one night this winter. Tammy forbade Bradley to go anywhere near Jack, as Cactus is trying to lure Bradley away from her. He says Fytch mistreats Bradley. No word on what Jack and Bradley had at that dinner!

Meanwhile, Fytch has offered **Ric Flair** a small fortune to come to Smoky Mountain to train new NWA champion **Chris Candido**.

ICW champion **Scotty McKeever** admits that federation newcomer **George South** did beat him many times when both were in the PWF, but says he has a new strategy that he will use against his challenger. He has offered South title shots ... **Bruiser Bedlam** told SMW Commissioner **Bob Armstrong** that he is sick of the way "that old geezer **Ron Wright** keeps insulting me!" Bedlam says he will wrestle Wright for free and put him in a wheelchair for good!

Bobby Fulton and **Tommy Rogers**—the original **Fantastics**—are back in WCW and are quietly seeking shots at the World tag team title. "We're not big mouths like **Paul Orndorff** and **Paul Roma**," Fulton said. "**Marcus Bagwell** and **The Patriot** are fine champions, but we'd like to wrestle them."

The Metal Maniac called to let us know he's getting set to go on a world tour. "When I return, every major federation will be bidding for my services," he boasted ... **The Gangstas** are training their security guard—known only as **"Security"**—to join them in the ring in the near future ... **Jerry Lawler** is feuding with **Jake Roberts** on Peach State Wrestling cards ... **Gorgeous George III**, another Peach State competitor, says he is the most talented of his family, including **George I** and **II**.

Among women wrestlers, Peggy Lee Leather is as tough as they come. So tough, in fact, that she has challenged her arch-rival, Bambi, to a barbed-wire match. A promoter is trying to sign the match.

Headshrinker Samu is wrestling on East Coast independent cards. His trainer, **Afa**, believes he must get back to basics before he can join **Fatu** and **Sionne** in the WWF. By the way, before Sionne joined **The Headshrinkers**, **Mr. Fuji** was trying to make a deal with Afa to sell Yokozuna's contract to him! The deal fell through when **Jim Cornette** demanded that he retain the right to be in Yokozuna's corner whenever the huge Samoan competed.

You don't see them very often in women's bouts, but **Peggy Lee Leather** wants a barbed-wire, anything-goes match against her most hated rival, **Bambi**. Bambi has agreed and promoter **Howard Brody** is trying to get the paperwork in order.

That's what's happening.See you at the matches! □

Did you ever think about how YOU could get in Pro Wrestling?

Maybe as a wrestler, valet or manager? Or even in a non-wrestling position?

OR DO YOU WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WRESTLING?

Now YOU can find out what you need to know to enter the exciting world of Pro Wrestling! This very insightful book is written by two professionals in the wrestling business, who between them have worked for every major wrestling association in this country including the NWA, WCW and the WWF! You are advised what to do, where to write, how to act, how to get various jobs and what your chances are, and how to better those odds! This book explains things about wrestling you never knew, but *need to know.* • Details over 50 different jobs possible in wrestling • Lists addresses of all U.S. promotions and wrestling schools • Tells where to order boots, tights, etc. in the U.S. & U.K.

Updated 1994 Edition Now Shipping!

Inside Secrets on How YOU Can Enter The Exciting World of Pro Wrestling!

Price of book is only $15, including postage. Add $5 for outside U.S. Send cashier's check, money order or cash for immediate shipment!

PRO WRESTLING CAREER BOOK
2770 Lenox Rd. NE, Ste. 200 • Atlanta, GA 30324

MOVING?

Kindly give us 8 weeks advance notice

Are you moving? If so, please give us 8 weeks advance notice so we can continue to service your subscription promptly. Check the magazine(s) listed below you subscribe to:

- ☐ PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
- ☐ THE WRESTLER
- ☐ INSIDE WRESTLING
- ☐ SPORTS REVIEW WRESTLING
- ☐ WRESTLING SUPERSTARS
- ☐ PWI WEEKLY

NAME
OLD ADDRESS
CITY
STATE ZIP
NEW ADDRESS
CITY
STATE ZIP
EFFECTIVE DATE

Clip this form and send to:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

2732/08-94

CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS

(Continued from page 14)

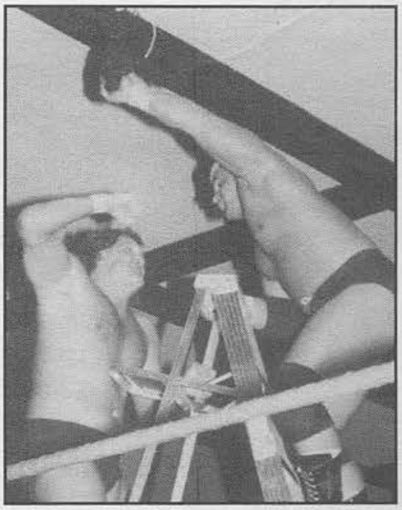
able to roll out of the ring and bring the ladder back inside with him. Then,the two men took turns pounding each other with the metal ladder.

Smothers drove the ladder into Candido's stomach and slammed it across his back. Candido smashed it on Smothers' head and both slid out of the ring.

Once outside, Candido dropkicked Smothers. After re-entering the ring, Candido executed a flying bodypress over the top rope and onto Smothers. Later in the match, Smothers slid through the ropes and kicked Candido. It didn't faze Candido. He retaliated by dropping the ladder on Smothers.

As the match went on, Smothers managed to set up the ladder and started climbing toward the check, but Fytch stopped his ascension by spraying him in the face with a foreign substance. Smothers and Candido continued to brutalize each other with the ladder before they both climbed to the top of it. Smothers kicked Candido twice, knocking him to the mat. Before Chris could recover, Smothers grabbed the check to win the bout.

In other bouts: Osamu Nishimura defeated Devon Storm ... Cowabunga pinned Jim Cornette ... Doink the Clown beat Abbudah Singh ... Johnny Gunn beat Derrick Domino after Domino's manager, Tony Rumble, turned on him ... SMW heavyweight champion Tony Anthony defeated Scotty Flamingo ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeated SMW tag team champions The Gangstas by disqualification.



There was violence galore in a Tracey Smothers-Chris Candido ladder match in Philadelphia. Candido had a chance to grab the $2,500 check, but Smothers kicked him off the ladder and claimed the money for himself.

Boston, MA *(Correspondent—Jim Imbruglia):* The war between Doink the Clown and Jerry "The King" Lawler continued at Boston Garden. As always, Dink was in the corner of Doink; Sleazy seconded Lawler.

The two combatants traded a series of armlocks during the early stages of the bout. Dink's constant interference drove Lawler to challenge the midget to step into the ring and fight, and the midget quickly obliged by jumping on Doink's shoulders and slugging Lawler. In retaliation, Sleazy leaped onto Lawler's shoulders and charged at the clowns.

While the referee was escorting the midgets out of the ring, Lawler reached into his tights, grabbed a foreign object, and twice pounded Doink with it. He then threw Doink into the ropes, where Sleazy choked him. Doink fought back and was dominating Lawler until he missed a flying bodypress off the top rope. Dink tried to execute the same maneuver, but Lawler caught him, threw him on top of Doink, and covered them both for the pin.

In other bouts: The Bushwhackers defeated Well Dunn ... Bam Bam Bigelow beat Adam Bomb ... Alundra Blayze & Heidi Lee Morgan beat Bull Nakano & Luna Vachon ... Intercontinental champ Razor Ramon beat Owen Hart ... Lex Luger wrestled Tatanka to a double-countout ... The Undertaker beat Irwin R. Schyster. ☐

VOTED #1

ALL NEW & IMPROVED! Rock n Roll HOTLINE

★ ADVANCE TOUR SCHEDULES!
★ MAILING ADDRESSES!
★ PHONE #'S FOR BEST TICKETS!
★ FAST AND EASY!
★ CONCERT LISTINGS BY AREA!
★ THE LATEST NEWS & UPDATES!
★ UPDATED WEEKLY / 24 HOURS!
★ NEW! SAMPLE HOT NEW MUSIC!

Code	Artist								
8361	10,000 Maniacs	2723	Cranberries	4683	Hothouse Flowers	9682	Neil Young	7621	Smashing Pumpkins
4661	4 Non Blondes	2761	Crosby, Stills, Nash	4631	Indigo Girls	6352	Nelson	7643	Smithereens
2231	AC/DC	2765	Crowded House	4691	INXS	6393	New Order	7661	Sonic Youth
2371	Aerosmith	2791	Cry of Love	2768	Jackson Browne	6461	Nine Inch Nails	7683	Soul Asylum
6261	Aimee Mann	2853	The Cult	5224	Jackyl	6471	Nirvana	7682	SoundGarden
2664	Alice Cooper	2871	The Cure	8291	James Taylor	6722	NRBQ	7746	Spin Doctors
2541	Alice in Chains	3261	Damn Yankees	5261	Jane's Addiction	6723	Ozzy Osbourne	7181	Squeeze
2551	Allman Bros.	3262	Danger Danger	4272	Jerry Garcia Band	7263	Pantera	8242	Steve Vai
2681	Anthrax	3265	Danzig	5371	Jesus Jones	7692	Patty Smyth	6421	Stevie Nicks
2527	B-52s	2691	David Bowie	5385	Jethro Tull	7463	Paul Simon	7842	Sting
2233	Bad Company	7681	David Lee Roth	2831	Jimmy Buffett	6221	Paul McCartney	7863	Stone Temple Pilots
2323	Beatles	3332	Deep Purple	7282	Joe Satriani	9373	Paul Westerberg	7834	Suede
2325	Beck	3331	Def Leppard	6351	John Mellencamp	7321	Pearl Jam	7841	Suicidal Tendencies
2352	Belly	3371	Depeche Mode	5831	Judas Priest	4221	Peter Gabriel	7862	Sundays
2381	Beverly Hills 90210	3461	Dinosaur Jr.	4282	Juliana Hatfield	3722	Peter Frampton	8341	Suzanne Vega
2444	Big Head Todd/Monsters	3462	Dio	5262	Kansas	7441	Phish	8251	Talking Heads
4361	Billy Idol	3472	Dire Straits	5461	King's X	7462	Pink Floyd	8321	Tears For Fears
5632	Billy Joel	3733	Dream Theater	5462	The Kinks	7641	Poison	6841	Ted Nugent
2524	Black Sabbath	3871	Duran Duran	5472	KISS	7671	Porno For Pyros	8371	Tesla
2523	Black Crowes	3242	The Eagles	5332	Led Zeppelin	7745	Primus	8372	Testament
2544	Blind Melon	2741	Edie Brickell	5366	Lemonheads	7762	Prong	8432	The The
3951	Bob Dylan	5641	Elton John	5721	Lenny Kravitz	1831	Queen	7381	Tom Petty
2661	Bon Jovi	3681	Enuff Z'nuff	5451	Lillian Axe	1832	Queensryche	2622	Tom Cochrane
2662	Bonham	5642	Eric Johnson	3671	Lita Ford	7363	R.E.M.	8662	Tool
2731	Breeders	2525	Eric Clapton	5484	LIVE	7232	Radiohead	8741	Trixter Fan Club
2769	Brother Cane	3981	Extreme	5962	Lynch Mob	7265	Ramones	8221	U2
4673	Bruce Hornsby	3241	Faith No More	7931	Matthew Sweet	7283	RATT	8241	UB40
7771	Bruce Springsteen	3442	Fight	6322	Meat Loaf	7332	Red Hot Chili Peppers	8451	Ugly Kid Joe
2321	Bryan Adams	3471	Firehouse	6241	Megadeth	6273	Richard Marx	8743	Urge Overkill
2852	Bulletboys	3531	Fleetwood Mac	3841	Melissa Etheridge	7521	Robert Plant	8262	Van Halen
2881	Butthole Surfers	3673	Foreigner	6382	Metallica	7832	Rod Stewart	6341	Vince Neil
9433	Catherine Wheel	4362	Genesis	2651	Michael Bolton	7651	Rolling Stones	8461	Violent Femmes
9431	Cheryl Wheeler	8462	George Thorogood	6431	Midnight Oil	7652	Rollins Band	9271	W.A.S.P.
2461	Cinderella	4461	Gin Blossoms	6443	Mighty M. Bosstones	7871	Rush	9272	Warrant
2656	Collective Soul	4721	Grateful Dead	6463	Ministry	7223	Sacred Reich	9441	White Zombie
2663	Concrete Blonde	4731	Great White	6252	Mitch Malloy	7261	Santana	9463	The Who
2671	Elvis Costello	4737	Green Day	6672	Morrissey	7374	Sepultura	9454	Wilson Phillips
2683	Counting Crows	4735	Green Jelly	6682	Motley Crue	6262	Sinead O'Connor	9671	World Party
2682	Coverdale/Page	4861	Guns N' Roses	6681	Motorhead	7541	Skid Row	9371	Yes
2693	Cowboy Junkies	4274	Hardline	6721	Mr. Big	7523	Slaughter	6251	YngwieMalmsteen
2726	Cracker	4321	Heart	6331	Ned's Atomic Dustbin	7524	Slayer	1181	ZZ Top

PLUS...OVER 500 MORE! (If your favorite group is not listed here, just press or say the numbers on your phone that contain the first 3 letters of the group, or artist's last name (i.e. BON Jovi = 266, Bryan ADAms = 232).

CALL NOW! **1-800-721-2263**

$2.99/min. Under 18 get parent's permission. Avg. call 3 min.

OR TRY **1-900-454-7700** EXT 99

$2.99/min. Under 18 get parent's permission. Avg. call 3 min.

CONCERT CONNECTION, LTD., DRESHER PA, 19025

(Continued from page 5)

The Von Erichs-Freebirds rivalry in Texas in the 1980s was legendary, recalls Jack Royers. He says fans in the Lone Star State won't be able to accept another promotion until their grieving for the Von Erichs is over.

grieving process is over. We will accept a new promotion when we can accept that part of our lives is gone forever.

JACK ROYERS
Dallas, TX

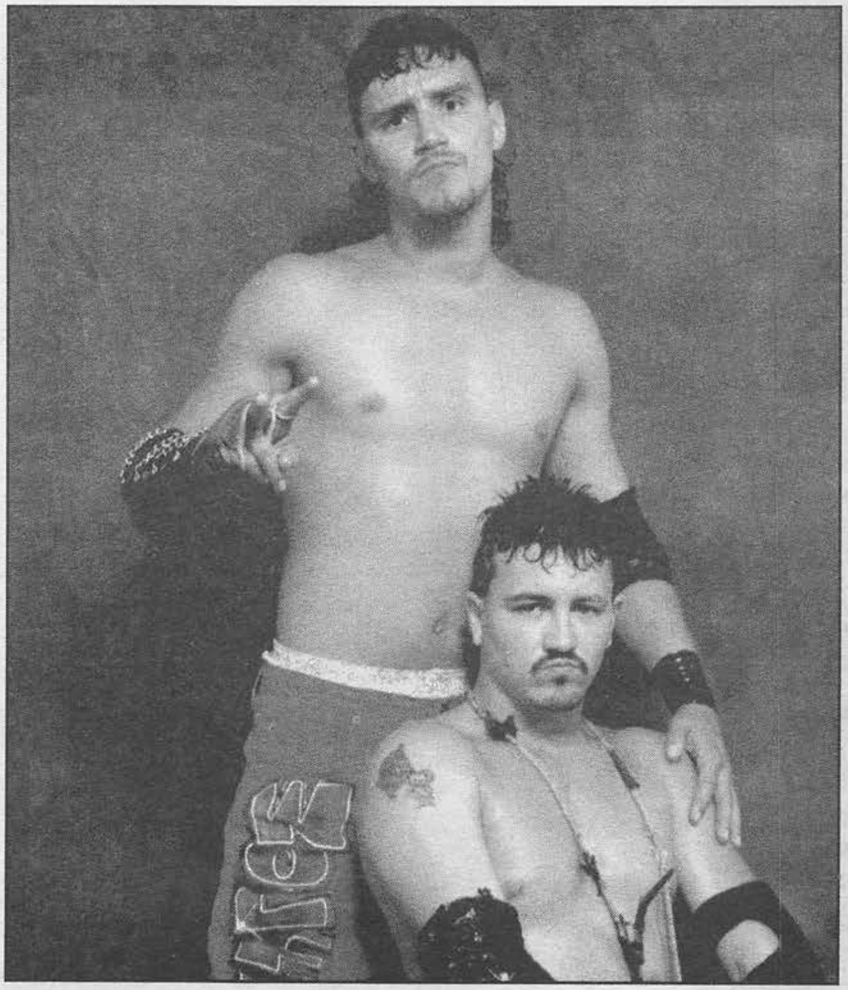
NEEDING A BEATING

I just read "PG-13: Rate Them 'R' For Rambunctious" (Winter 1994), and I am appalled at the way these two brats act. I agree with Jerry Lawler when he said that they need a good spanking. I think that Wolfie D and J.C. Ice should be thrown in jail for their heinous behavior. Better yet, they should be drafted by the Marines. If they were in the Marines, their attitudes would be taken care of in a hurry! After a few weeks of boot camp hell, they'd lose their "tough guy" attitudes and learn some manners and respect!

Why don't the USWA officials do something to curb their attitude problems? I think that maybe Jerry Lawler or Tommy Rich or *anybody* would be willing to give them an old-fashioned whipping with a leather belt. Maybe that would knock their problem out of them!

I hope that some of the guys of the USWA will stand up to these two punks and give them the pounding they deserve!

NANCIE UNGER
Coal Center, PA □



Wolfie D and J.C. Ice should be thrown in jail or even forced to join the Marines, says reader Nancie Unger. She is tired of all their pranks and hopes someone in the USWA soon changes their attitudes.

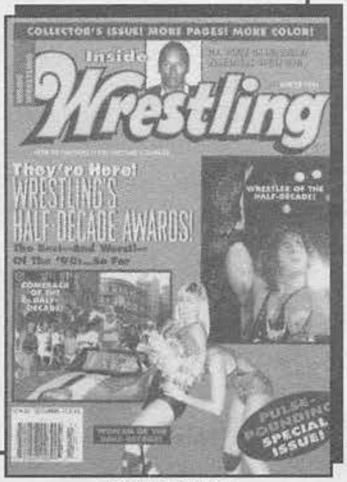
COMPUTER
WRESTLING
IBM PC
RAMPAGE WRESTLING
Over 400 professional wrestler's from the past and present • Singles matches, tag team, 3 man tag, rumbles – with up to 30 men in the ring at once, cage matches, war matches, or create your own style of match • Add wrestler's, rate yourself and your friends!
ORDER TODAY! Mail check or money order for **$39.95** each. You may call in and order with VISA or Master Card. Please add $3.00 for shipping and handling.
For more information, call or write for a free brochure.
1-800-477-7032
LANCE HAFFNER GAMES
P.O. BOX 100594 • NASHVILLE, TN 37224

AVAILABLE NOW!

A VERY SPECIAL SELECTION OF PREMIUM BACK ISSUES!

WINTER 1994

Over the past few years, these special issues of *The Wrestler* and *Inside Wrestling* have become coveted by collectors the world over. Now, in limited quantities, they are available to you for the low price of just $5 each! Be sure to complete your collection today!



WINTER 1994

JANUARY 1986 *WRESTLER* includes a dynamic four-page full-color section celebrating the 10 greatest wrestlers of the *Wrestler* years. Featured in color: Bruno Sammartino, Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, and Dusty Rhodes.

MARCH 1993 *WRESTLER* features a full-color 12-page section, "1992: The Year In Pictures," that details all the most important events, both in and out of the ring, of that remarkable year in the mat sport.

MARCH 1994 *WRESTLER* features the full-color 12-page section, "1993: The Year In Pictures," detailing all the most important happenings, both in and out of the ring, of those notable 12 months in the mat sport.

JUNE 1994 *WRESTLER* is an 88-page spectacular featuring 20 pages of "The stuff all fans should know"—the best wrestling quiz ever! What's your wrestling IQ? Find out with this issue! Features four full-color pinups!

SEPTEMBER 1994 *WRESTLER* 88 pages of excitement—including the lively and candid "WWF Midyear Report," a review of the WWF through the first half of the year! Includes four color pinups!

WINTER 1994 *WRESTLER* includes the must-read bonus section, "Wrestling From A To Z"—an alphabetical array of wrestling trends and turmoil! Four full-color pinups complete this sensational 88-page package!

MARCH 1990 *INSIDE WRESTLING* looks back at the decade of the '80s with a dazzling eight-page full-color section and a year-by-year review of the most significant events in the sport. Must reading for all fans!

JANUARY 1993 *INSIDE WRESTLING* presents a stunning 12-page bonus full-color section covering the WWF's SummerSlam '92 extravaganza and Clash of the Champions XX.

JANUARY 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING* offers the most extensive coverage of SummerSlam '93 and Fall Brawl anywhere: seven pages of analysis plus two pages of full-color highlights from each card!

APRIL 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING* includes the first-ever *Inside Wrestling* computer tournament! You won't believe who wins—or how! This 88-page issue's four-page color section includes an action centerfold—from the tournament?!

JULY 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING* includes 21 pages of one-of-a-kind prognostications as *Inside Wrestling* looks into the sport's future and reports back to you! Coverage in this 88-page issue includes a four-page pinup section!

OCTOBER 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING* presents the bold and brassy "WCW Midyear Report," a 15-page overview of the first half of 1994. Four full-color pinups fill out this 88-page special edition.

WINTER 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING* They're here: Wrestling's half-decade awards! The best—and worst!—of the '90s...so far!...honored in a special section! A four-page color section highlights this 88-page must-read!

ONLY $5 EACH!

- ❑ JANUARY 1986 *WRESTLER*
- ❑ MARCH 1993 *WRESTLER*
- ❑ MARCH 1994 *WRESTLER*
- ❑ JUNE 1994 *WRESTLER*
- ❑ SEPTEMBER 1994 *WRESTLER*
- ❑ WINTER 1994 *WRESTLER*
- ❑ MARCH 1990 *INSIDE WRESTLING*
- ❑ JANUARY 1993 *INSIDE WRESTLING*
- ❑ APRIL 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING*
- ❑ JULY 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING*
- ❑ OCTOBER 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING*
- ❑ WINTER 1994 *INSIDE WRESTLING*

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE AND MAIL TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

Please send me the special editions of WRESTLER and INSIDE WRESTLING I've checked.
I am enclosing $________ as payment in full.
In case of sellout, indicate substitute choice:__________

PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name ______________________________

Address ______________________ Apt. ________

City ______________________________

State ______________________ Zip ________

For all orders outside the U.S. and Canada, you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be delivered by ground and $3 for every back issue to be delivered by airmail. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

3027/10-94

NO HOLDS BARRED

(Continued from page 8)

Backlund—Owen was interviewed by Todd Pettingill. He showed absolutely no remorse. In fact, he dissed his mother on national TV and gloated about how he fooled her. Then he abused Bret.

"You're a loooooo-ser!" Owen screamed into the microphone.

It was then that Dr. Basil heard something interesting come out of Owen's mouth.

"While berating Bret, Owen berated himself," Dr. Basil said. "He said something along the lines of, 'You're nothing, just like me. You're lower than me. You're lower than the gutter.' Clearly, Owen doesn't think much of himself, or maybe it's a subconscious thought that escaped in the heat of the action. Maybe Owen has given up on rising to Bret's level and is concentrating on bringing Bret down to his. That kind of self-hate is very alarming, and it could be one of the reasons Owen didn't think twice about humiliating his parents."

Dr. Basil added a caveat.

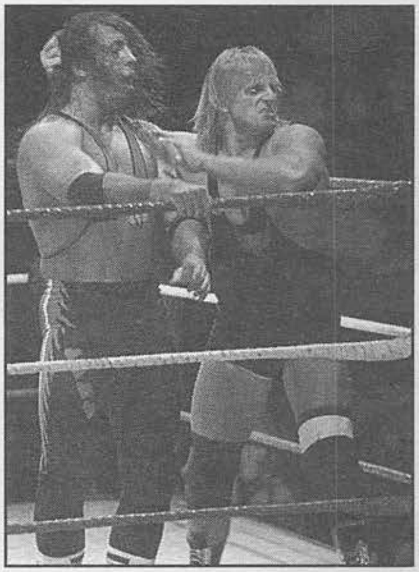
"But it's just a theory," the suddenly cautious good doctor remarked.

Personally, I think Owen has gone out of his mind. Several years ago, Owen made a major splash in wrestling. He was viewed by many—including me—as a sure superstar with incredible aerial and scientific skills. How could he miss? Only his lack of size could hold him back.

As it turned out, size had nothing to do with it. Owen underachieved. Or maybe we overestimated him. Maybe what we see is all we're going to get. Refusing to look at himself in the mirror, Owen turned an accusing eye toward Bret. They feuded. Bret won decisively. Now Owen, who trained all his life to be a world champion, is nothing more than a middle-of-the-road mini-star. His only claim to fame: the feud with Bret.

All this can surely drive a sane man mad.

I decided against offering my theory to Dr. Basil. Let him read it here. Besides, the doctor is out ... wiping that egg off his face. □



For months, Owen said he wanted to escape Bret's shadow. Now that he has proven he isn't as good as Bret, it's possible he is trying to bring his brother down to his level.

HULK HOGAN WANTS YOU!

WCW World Championship Wrestling

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

ONLY $8.95

COLLECTORS ITEM

LIMITED EDITION

A MUST HAVE FOR EVERY HULK HOGAN FAN!

NOW YOU CAN WEAR THE SAME BANDANA AS THE HULKSTER. THIS GENUINE HULK HOGAN BANDANA IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR A LIMITED TIME. BE PART OF A WINNING TEAM!

DON'T WAIT, RUSH YOUR ORDER TODAY!

© 1994 World Championship Wrestling, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

RANED, CORP
P.O. BOX 292
JENSEN BEACH, FL 34958
TOLL FREE 1-800-508-9526
FAX 1-407-398-9482
(Credit Card Orders May Be Faxed Or Called In)

❑ YES! I WANT TO BE A HULKAMANIAC

PLEASE RUSH ________ BANDANA(S)
AT $8.95 ea + $1.00 ea
FOR SHIPPING & HANDLING

NAME ____________
ADDRESS ____________
____
CITY STATE ZIP

METHOD OF PAYMENT
❑ CHECK OR MONEY ORDER
❑ MASTERCARD ❑ VISA ❑ DISCOVER
FOR CREDIT CARD ORDERS PLEASE INCLUDE SIGNATURE, ACCOUNT #, EXPIRATION DATE

____
ACCOUNT #
____
EXPIRATION DATE
SIG X ____________

ALLOW 4-6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY

BACK ISSUES OF THE Wrestler

Don't miss a single issue of the magazine that has thrilled wrestling fans for two generations, THE WRESTLER. Complete your collection of the most respected wrestling publication in the world today. Supplies are limited. Don't delay—order today!

March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.
July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.
December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.
January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvins, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.
February 1987/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.
March 1987/Stories include: Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steamboat.
April 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Rich-Lawler, R&R Express.
June 1987/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.
July 1987/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.
August 1987/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.
November 1987/Stories include: Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.
December 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.
January 1988/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.
March 1988/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.
May 1988/Stories include: Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.
June 1988/Stories include: Sting-Flair, DiBiase, Kerry, Nikita, Zenk.
July 1988/Stories include: Fantastics, Hogan, Windham, McMahon, Rich.
October 1988/Stories include: Rhodes, Fantastics, Hennig, Roberts-Rude.
November 1988/Stories include: Midnight Ex., DiBiase, Bossman, Brody.
January 1989/Stories include: Kevin Von, Rougeaus, Horsemen, Hogan.
February 1989/Stories include: Warriors, Ultimate-Hogan, Bigelow-Gordy.
May 1989/Stories include: Steamboat, Savage-Hogan, Dusty, Valentine.
June 1989/Stories include: Steamboat, Martel, Ultimate-Savage, Luger, Flair.
July 1989/Stories include: Warrior, Hogan-Bravo, Flair-Steamboat, Rhodes.
September 1989/Stories include: Flair-Funk, Piper, Demolition, Zeus.
October 1989/Stories include: Hogan & Beefcake vs. Zeus & Savage, Hyatt, Hayes.
November 1989/Stories include: Piper-Savage-Hogan, Dusty, Flair-Funk.
December 1989/Stories include: Muta-Sting, Andre-Ultimate, Windham.
January 1990/Stories include: Pillman, Hogan, Rich-Luger, Tully & Arn.
February 1990/Stories include: Sting-Luger, Gordy, Martel, Hogan-Brown.
March 1990/Stories include: Steiners, Flair-Funk, Hogan-Zeus, Survivors.
April 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Woman, Piper-Heenan, Travis.
June 1990/Stories include: Hogan, Rockers, Koloffs, Horsemen, Flair-Luger.
July 1990/Stories include: Poffo, Dusty-Savage, Luger-Flair, Doom, Blanchard.
August 1990/Stories include: Hogan-Warrior, Embry, Demolition, Doom.
September 1990/Stories include: Ultimate, Haynes, Luger, Doom, Tugboat.
October 1990/Stories include: Hogan-Earthquake, Ultimate, Flair, Rich.
November 1990/Stories include: Luger & Sting, Beefcake, Race, Steiners.
February 1991/Stories include: Sting-Vicious, Muta-Steamboat, Warrior, Hogan.
March 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Warrior, Piper, Cornette, Steiners.
April 1991/Stories include: Hogan, DiBiase, Skyscrapers, Luger, Zenk.
May 1991/Stories include: Hogan-Slaughter, Flair, Eaton, Sheik-Bobo.
June 1991/Stories include: Hogan, Nastys, Sting, Flair, Cactus Jack.
July 1991/Stories include: Flair-Fujinami, Nastys, Steiners, Savage.
August 1991/Stories include: Slaughter, Luger-Nikita, Hennig, Poffo.
September 1991/Stories include: Steiners vs. Sting & Luger, LOD, Cactus.
November 1991/Stories include: Luger, Steamboat, Piper, Global.
December 1991/Stories include: Flair-Hogan, Beverlys, Sting-Luger.
January 1992/Stories include: LOD, Badd, Hughes, Roberts, Gossett.
February 1992/Stories include: Flair, Simmons, Santana, Backlund.
March 1992/Stories include: Pillman, WWF title, Rude, Mountie-Hart.
April 1992/Stories include: Bearer, WCW magic, Hennig & Flair, LPWA.
May 1992/Stories include: Flair, Anderson & Eaton, Piper, Rhodes, USWA.
June 1992/Stories include: Flair-Hogan-Justice, Gilbert, Warrior, Vegas.
July 1992/Stories include: Rude, LOD, Madusa, Monsoon, Nurse Vanessa.
August 1992/Stories include: Warrior, Bunkhouse, Undertaker-Roberts, Sting.
September 1992/Stories include: LOD, Repo vs. Crush, Kleen, Freebirds.
October 1992/Stories include: Bulldog & Warrior, Lee, Martel-Tatanka, Austin.
November 1992/Stories include: Crush, Reed, Hennig, Sting, Rogers.
December 1992/Stories include: Hogan, Roberts, Simmons, Rock 'n' Rolls.
January 1993/Stories include: Ramon-Savage, Sting-Roberts, Disasters.
February 1993/Stories include: Hart, Rick Steiner, Backlund, Austin.
April 1993/Stories include: What's in/out, Ramon, Steamboat, Patriot, Tatanka.
June 1993/Stories include: Sting-Vader, Doink & Christopher, Steiners, Lawler.
July 1993/Stories include: Smith-Vader, Ramon, Rhodes, Tatanka, Bravo murder.
August 1993/Stories include: Hogan-Yokozuna, Jarrett, Vicious, Hart, Payne.
October 1993/Stories include: Vader & Vicious, SummerSlam lists, sHart-Lawler.
November 1993/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Hogan, Luger, Jannetty, Bodies, Power Bombs.
December 1993/Stories include: Luger, Sting & Flair, Fytch, Luna, Austin.
January 1994/Stories include: Hogan, Rude-Flair, Bagwell & Scorpio, Cornette.
February 1994/Stories include: Vicious & Arn, Yokozuna, Vader-Cactus, steroids.
April 1994/Stories include: Hogan, Savage-Crush, Flair, Blayze, Adams, Boss.
May 1994/Stories include: Royal Rumble, Hulk minus bulk, Boss, Douglas-Sherri.
July 1994/Stories incllude: Flair vs. Hogan, DiBiase, Crockett, Douglas, WWF.
August 1994/Stories include: Cactus-Vader, M.O.M., Hart & Yokozuna, Badd.
October 1994/Stories include: Undertaker, Cactus, Scorpio-Sabu, Funk, Sheik.
November 1994/Stories include: Hogan, Owen, Bret, Badd, Lawler.
December 1994/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Vicious, Austin, Bomb.
January 1995/Stories include: Holiday gifts, DiBiase, Badd, Backlund, PG-13.
February 1995/Stories include: Hogan, Steiners, Undertaker, Sabu, Honky Tonk.

THE WRESTLER

☐ NOV 76	☐ JUNE 85	☐ OCT 88	☐ FEB 91	☐ DEC 92
☐ FEB 79	☐ JULY 85	☐ NOV 88	☐ MAR 91	☐ JAN 93
☐ AUG 79	☐ DEC 85	☐ JAN 89	☐ APR 91	☐ FEB 93
☐ FEB 80	☐ FEB 86	☐ FEB 89	☐ MAY 91	☐ APR 93
☐ MAR 80	☐ MAR 86	☐ MAY 89	☐ JUNE 91	☐ JUNE 93
☐ AUG 80	☐ JULY 86	☐ JUNE 89	☐ JULY 91	☐ JULY 93
☐ OCT 80	☐ DEC 86	☐ JULY 89	☐ AUG 91	☐ AUG 93
☐ JUNE 81	☐ JAN 87	☐ SEPT 89	☐ SEPT 91	☐ OCT 93
☐ APR 82	☐ FEB 87	☐ OCT 89	☐ NOV 91	☐ NOV 93
☐ FEB 83	☐ MAR 87	☐ NOV 89	☐ DEC 91	☐ DEC 93
☐ APR 83	☐ APR 87	☐ DEC 89	☐ JAN 92	☐ JAN 94
☐ JUNE 83	☐ JUNE 87	☐ JAN 90	☐ FEB 92	☐ FEB 94
☐ JULY 83	☐ JULY 87	☐ FEB 90	☐ MAR 92	☐ APR 94
☐ MAR 84	☐ AUG 87	☐ MAR 90	☐ APR 92	☐ MAY 94
☐ JULY 84	☐ NOV 87	☐ APR 90	☐ MAY 92	☐ JULY 94
☐ AUG 84	☐ DEC 87	☐ JUNE 90	☐ JUNE 92	☐ AUG 94
☐ OCT 84	☐ JAN 88	☐ JULY 90	☐ JULY 92	☐ OCT 94
☐ DEC 84	☐ MAR 88	☐ AUG 90	☐ AUG 92	☐ NOV 94
☐ JAN 85	☐ MAY 88	☐ SEPT 90	☐ SEPT 92	☐ DEC 94
☐ FEB 85	☐ JUNE 88	☐ OCT 90	☐ OCT 92	☐ JAN 95
☐ MAR 85	☐ JULY 88	☐ NOV 90	☐ NOV 92	☐ FEB 95

In case of a sellout, indicate substitute choice: ____________

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:

LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

ONLY $3 EACH

Please send me the back issues I've checked. I enclose $_____ as payment in full. PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS CLEARLY

Name______________________________________

Address____________________________ Apt.______

City______________________________________

State____________________________ Zip________

For all orders except the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent boat mail, and $3 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only

Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery

3043/10-94

The Wrestler SPOTLIGHTS...

Every month, *The Wrestler* will comb through its extensive photo files and shine its spotlight on an outstanding wrestler, manager, or tag team. We'll present unforgettable highlights in the action-packed careers of the sport's greatest stars, culled from the most extensive photographic archives anywhere in the wrestling world!

RANDY SAVAGE

RANDY SAVAGE HAS left the WWF after nine-plus years with the federation as a wrestler and broadcast analyst; WWF head Vince McMahon announced in November that the "Macho Man" was unable to come to terms on a new contract. Rumor has it that the "Macho Man" will soon enter WCW.

Savage is the son of famed grappler Angelo Poffo and he is the brother of Lanny "The Genius" Poffo. Although he excelled at baseball and was under contract to a minor league team, he entered wrestling in 1973 as the masked man named "The Spider" and won his first match. He retired from baseball in 1976 to wrestle full-time in the Georgia area.

Early on, he teamed with his brother to win the Southeastern tag team title, but defeated him for the Intercontinental Championship Wrestling heavyweight title in 1979, and held it for four years.

Savage signed with manager Jimmy Hart and moved to the Mid-Southern area, where he feuded with Jerry Lawler. He then entered the WWF, taking on his future wife, Elizabeth, as his manager.

Savage won the Intercontinental title from Tito Santana in February 1986, and feuded with Rick Steamboat, who pinned him for the belt at WrestleMania III. Savage pinned Ted DiBiase at WrestleMania IV to win the WWF World title.

Randy Savage won both the Intercontinental and World title during his tenure in the WWF, but he also held the now-defunct King's Crown in 1989-90.

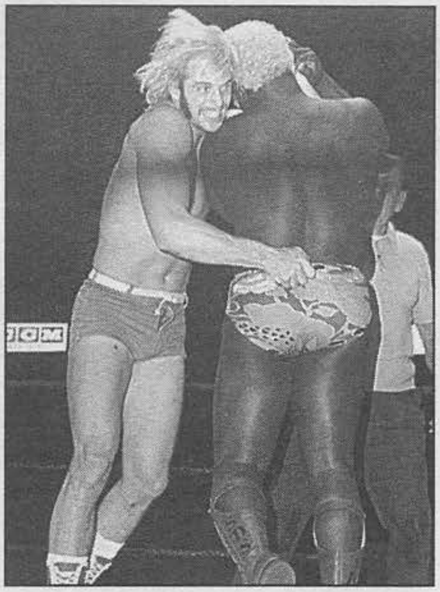
Over the years, Savage feuded with many of the sport's greats, including The Ultimate Warrior, Jake Roberts, and Ric Flair. He also had a strange relationship with Hulk Hogan, with whom he has both teamed and feuded. He blamed Hogan for his professional split with Elizabeth. Savage and Elizabeth eventually reconciled and married at SummerSlam '91, but they were later divorced.

The "Macho Man's" interference caused The Ultimate Warrior to lose the World title at the 1991 Royal Rumble. The feud led to a retirement match at WrestleMania VII; Savage lost, but retired only temporarily.

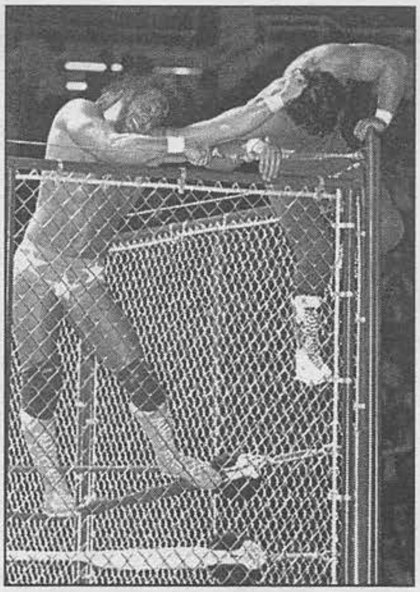
Savage pinned Flair for the World title at WrestleMania VIII, but lost it back to him less than five months later.

He has wrestled only occasionally in the last few years, concentrating instead on his TV duties. He briefly held the USWA title in 1993, had a bitter feud with Crush in the WWF, and feuded with Bruiser Bedlam and Jake Roberts in Smoky Mountain Wrestling.

No one knows where Savage will turn up next, but there is no questioning his accomplishments so far. It's a perfect time to cast him in the "Spotlight."



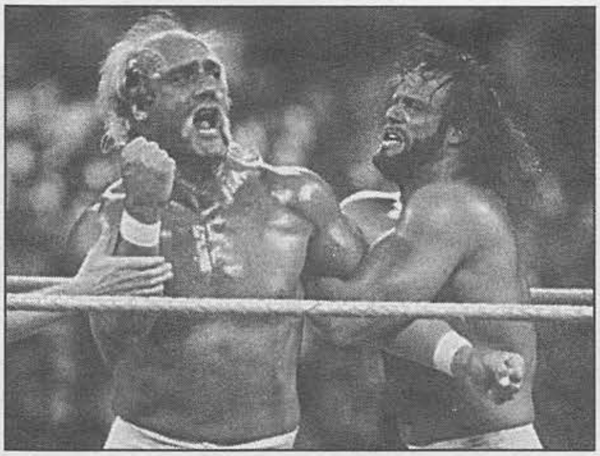
▶October 1976: Savage was a few pounds thinner 18 years ago than he is now. But even early in his career, he was crafty. He knew how to get a little extra leverage against foes like Sweet Daddy Siki when the referee wasn't watching.



▶ May 1987: The Savage-Rick Steamboat feud was voted the second-best of 1987 by *PWI* readers. "The Dragon" won the Intercontinental title from Savage in a grueling WrestleMania III match. They had many rematches, including this steel cage bout.

◀September 1984: Savage and his brother, Lanny Poffo, haven't always gotten along. They teamed to win the Southeastern tag title, but were on opposite sides of a feud a few years later.

▼ April 1989: The "Macho Man" gave Hulk Hogan some tough tests in the ring over the years and they could meet again if Savage joins WCW. Here the "Hulkster" makes a comeback en route to winning his second WWF World title.

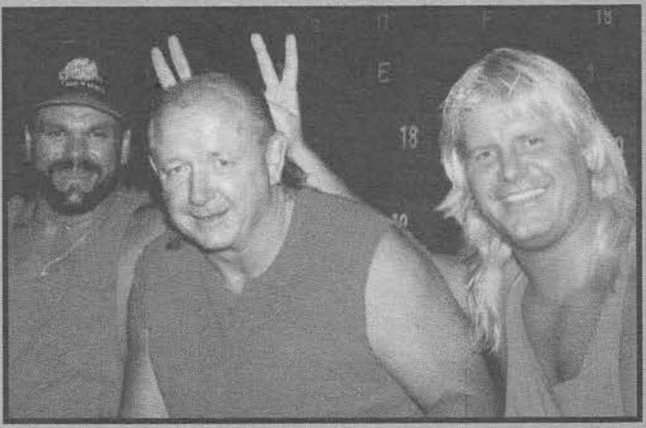


▲March 1985: Savage's feud with Jerry Lawler began in Memphis in the 1980s and never really died. They wrestled other occasionally in both the WWF and the USWA in 1993-94.

◀August 1992: By this time, Savage was a fan favorite again. He feuded with Ric Flair after the "Nature Boy" after Flair revealed some doctored photos of himself with Savage's then-wife Elizabeth. Flair and Savage traded the WWF belt twice.

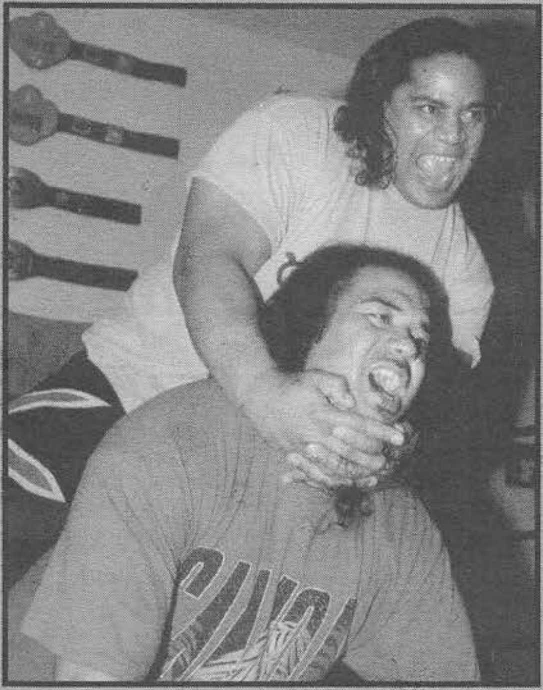
Beyond The Squared Circle

▶"This is a shot of me with my two good ... hey, wait a minute!" Dory Funk Jr. thought Steve Williams and Johnny Ace were his friends, but it looks like the joke is on him. The trio was enjoying time away from the ring during a fall tour of Japan.



◀The boxing vs. wrestling debate rages on! Muhammad Ali and Hulk Hogan both make their cases about which sport's athletes are tougher during a post-Halloween Havoc bash. Actually, the debate was all in fun; Ali presented Hogan with the WCW World belt after he beat Ric Flair.

▶This could be quite a handicap match! Former AWA World champion Verne Gagne doesn't seem to mind that he is being double-teamed by boxing greats Willie Pep and Carmen Basilio at a Cauliflower Alley Club banquet.

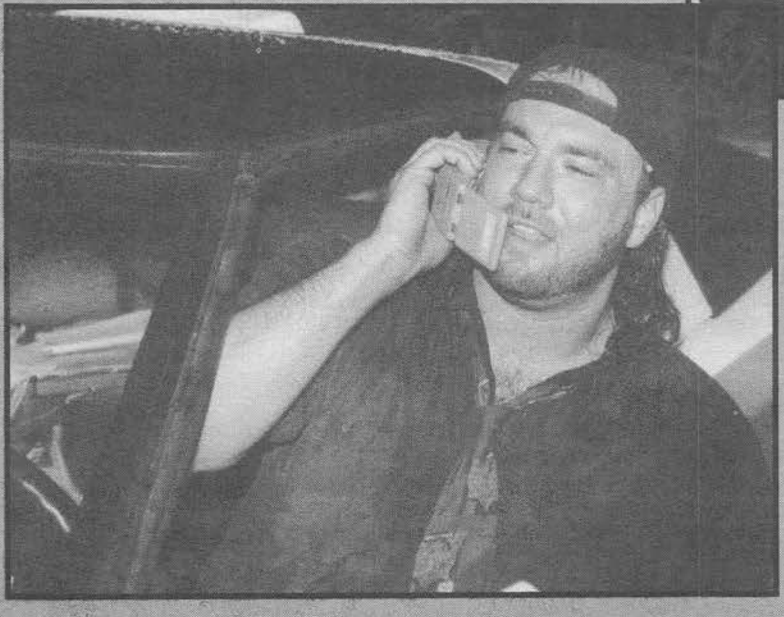


◀If this is how he treats family ... Headshrinker Fatu isn't easy on anyone who steps into the ring with him. Here, he shows brother-in-law Sonny, an aspiring wrestler, how tough his rear chinlock can be!

▼ECW's Johnny Grunge is always looking for new foreign objects. He and Rocco Rock—Public Enemy—can often be found going through the garbage in dressing rooms looking for something new to hide in their tights.

◀Japanese legend Atsushi Onita takes part in a special ceremony to honor him for receiving a total of 1,000 stitches in his career. Even his parents were on hand for the service ... They must have been so proud!

▲Gorilla Monsoon and former WWF World champion Pedro Morales discuss old times during the Cauliflower banquet. Arnold Skaaland, who has recently been thrust back into the spotlight, stands by.



◀You thought Paul E. Dangerously only used his telephone in the ring? He's actually such a busy man that he owns several cellular phones: one for talking and one for hitting opposing wrestlers in the head.

THE Wrestler

TOP 10

1 DIESEL
356, Las Vegas, NV
(–) WWF World champion

2 RAZOR RAMON
287, Miami, FL
(4) WWF Intercontinental champion

3 HULK HOGAN
275, Venice Beach, CA
(2) WCW World champion

4 KING KONG BUNDY
446, Atlantic City, NJ
(–) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

5 THE UNDERTAKER
328, parts unknown
(5) No. 4 contender: WWF World title

6 JOHNNY B. BADD
235, Macon, GA
(8) WCW TV champion

7 BOB BACKLUND
234, Princeton, MN
(–) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

8 STING
260, Venice Beach, CA
(–) No. 4 contender: WCW World title

9 TONY ANTHONY
235, Bucksnort, TN
(10) Smoky Mountain champion

10 LEX LUGER
265, Chicago, IL
(–) No. 5 contender: WWF World title

The Heavenly Bodies

TAG TEAMS

1 MARCUS BAGWELL & THE PATRIOT
Combined weight: 491 pounds
(4) WCW World tag team champions

2 THE NASTY BOYS
Combined weight: 585 pounds
(2) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title

3 THE HEAVENLY BODIES
Combined weight: 450 pounds
(9) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title

4 BAM BAM BIGELOW & TATANKA
Combined weight: 618 pounds
(–) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title

5 THE GANGSTAS
Combined weight: 456 pounds
(3) Smoky Mountain tag team champions

6 HARLEM HEAT
Combined weight: 550 pounds
(–) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title

7 THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS
Combined weight: 453 pounds
(10) No. 1 contenders: Smoky Mountain tag title

8 THE BUSHWHACKERS
Combined weight: 499 pounds
(8) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title

9 PUBLIC ENEMY
Combined weight: 583 pounds
(7) ECW tag team champions

10 THE SMOKIN' GUNNS
Combined weight: 465 pounds
(5) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title

WCW

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN
(C) 275, Venice Beach, CA

1—HACKSAW DUGGAN
(1) 280, Glens Falls, NY
2—JOHNNY B. BADD
(2) 235, Macon, GA
3—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
(9) 273, San Francisco, CA
4—STING
(5) 260, Venice Beach, CA
5—BIG VAN VADER
(3) 450, Denver, CO
6—THE HONKY TONK MAN
(6) 278, Memphis, TN
7—AVALANCHE
(–) 502, Montreal, Quebec
8—DUSTIN RHODES
(8) 254, Austin, TX
9—ARN ANDERSON
(–) 249, Minneapolis, MN
10—KEVIN SULLIVAN
(–) 252, Boston, MA

WWF

World Champion:
DIESEL
(C) 356, Las Vegas, NV

1—RAZOR RAMON
(1) 287, Miami, FL
2—KING KONG BUNDY
(8) 446, Atlantic City, NJ
3—BOB BACKLUND
(6) 234, Princeton, MN
4—THE UNDERTAKER
(2) 328, parts unknown
5—LEX LUGER
(4) 265, Chicago, IL
6—DAVEY BOY SMITH
(–) 245, Leeds, England
7—TATANKA
(5) 250, Pembroke, NC
8—MABEL
(–) 503, Harlem, NY
9—OWEN HART
(–) 227, Calgary, Alberta
10—IRWIN R. SCHYSTER
(10) 248, Syracuse, NY

USWA

USWA Champion:
SID VICIOUS
(C) 318, West Memphis, AR

1—TOMMY RICH
(1) 248, Hendersonville, TN
2—JERRY LAWLER
(2) 234, Memphis, TN
3—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER
(4) 230, Memphis, TN
4—DOUG GILBERT
(5) 241, Lexington, TN
5—BILL DUNDEE
(–) 219, Melbourne, Australia
6—SPELLBINDER
(7) 246, parts unknown
7—BUDDY LANDELL
(6) 236, Los Angeles, CA
8—JEFF GAYLORD
(8) 280, St. Louis, MO
9—DOUG BASHAM
(–) 228, Memphis, TN
10—TROY GRAHAM
(–) 237, Memphis, TN

ECW

ECW Champion:
SHANE DOUGLAS
(C) 223, Pittsburgh, PA

1—RON SIMMONS
(1) 260, Perry, GA
2—SABU
(2) 220, Bombay
3—DEAN MALENKO
(3) 216, Tampa, FL
4—TOMMY DREAMER
(9) 245, Yonkers, NY
5—TASMANIAC
(10) 221, Tasmania
6—911
(7) 310, parts unknown
7—2 COLD SCORPIO
(4) 222, Denver, CO
8—THE SANDMAN
(–) 244, Philadelphia, PA
9—BRIAN PILLMAN
(–) 226, Cincinnati, OH
10—TOMMY CAIRO
(–) 257, Philadelphia, PA

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

MOST POPULAR

1 HULK HOGAN
275, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular

2 BRET HART
234, Calgary, Alberta
Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular

3 STING
260, Venice Beach, CA
Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular

4 THE UNDERTAKER
328, parts unknown
Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular

5 RAZOR RAMON
287, Miami, FL
Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular

6 DAVEY BOY SMITH
245, Leeds, England
Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular

7 HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, Glens Falls, NY
Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular

8 LEX LUGER
265, Chicago, IL
Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular

9 JOHNNY B. BADD
235, Macon, GA
Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular

10 DUSTIN RHODES
254, Austin, TX
Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular

MOST HATED

1 BOB BACKLUND
234, Princeton, MN
Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated

2 BIG VAN VADER
450, Denver, CO
Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated

3 TATANKA
250, Pembroke, NC
Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated

4 JIM NEIDHART
275, Tampa, FL
Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated

5 JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN
Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated

6 RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN
Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated

7 SHAWN MICHAELS
234, San Antonio, TX
Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated

8 OWEN HART
227, Calgary, Alberta
Last issue: No. 8 Most Hated

9 DIESEL
356, Las Vegas, NV
Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated

10 SHANE DOUGLAS
223, Pittsburgh, PA
Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated

SMOKY MOUNTAIN

Smoky Mountain Champion:
TONY ANTHONY
(C) 235, Bucksnort, TN

1—BRUISER BEDLAM
(1) 235, Newark, NJ
2—BRYANT ANDERSON
(5) 240, Atlanta, GA
3—TRACEY SMOTHERS
(3) 227, Atlanta, GA
4—RICK MORTON
(-) 228, Memphis, TN
5—CHRIS CANDIDO
(2) 226, Carteret, NJ
6—BRIAN LEE
(7) 251, Los Angeles, CA
7—CACTUS JACK
(9) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM
8—BOO BRADLEY
(4) 310, parts unknown
9—LANCE STORM
(6) 231, Memphis, TN
10—BOBBY BLAZE
(8) 222, Charlotte, NC

INTERNATIONAL

Triple Crown Champion:
TOSHIAKI KAWADA
(C) 245, Tizhigi, Japan

1—STEVE WILLIAMS
(1) 265, Norman, OK
2—SHINYA HASHIMOTO
(2) 287, Gisu, Japan
3—MITSUHARU MISAWA
(3) 247, Saitama, Japan
4—BIG VAN VADER
(4) 450, Denver, CO
5—NOBUHIKO TAKADA
(5) 231, Yokohama, Japan
6—KONNAN
(6) 237, Mexico City, Mexico
7—KENTA KOBASHI
(7) 261, Tokyo, Japan
8—CHRIS BENOIT
(8) 218, Edmonton, Alberta
9—STAN HANSEN
(9) 322, Borger, TX
10—PERRO AGUAYO
(10) 215, Zacatecas, Mexico

For period ended December 7, 1994

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of these issues in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only, and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a first-place rating, nine for second place, and so on. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, with a possible maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—BRET HART .... 87 points
2—RIC FLAIR .... 57 points
3—HULK HOGAN .... 55 points
4—RAZOR RAMON .... 48 points
5—STING .... 46 points

TAG TEAMS

1—THE NASTY BOYS .... 84 points
2—THE HEADSHRINKERS .... 49 points
3—MARCUS BAGWELL & THE PATRIOT .... 47 points
4—PAUL ORNDORFF & PAUL ROMA .... 42 points
5—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS .... 39 points

AAA: AAA Champion—Perro Aguayo; 1—El Hijo Del Santo; 2—Octagon; 3— 4—Eddy Guerrero; 5—Rey Mysterio Jr.; 6—La Parka; 7—Perro Aguayo; 8—Blue Panther; 9—Psicosis; 10—Cien Caras.

ACW: ACW Champion—

IWCCW: IWCCW Champion—Tito Santana; 1—Greg Valentine; 2—Tony Atlas; 3—Jimmy Snuka; 4—Rick Martel; 5—The Funny Clown; 6—Metal Maniac; 7—Jim Powers; 8—Cousin Luke; 9—Gino Caruso; 10—Hacksaw Duggan.

MTW: MTW Champion—Machine Gun Kelly; 1—Johnny Paradise; 2—Chris Carter; 3—Rock Stevens; 4—Al Snow; 5—Bobo Brazil Jr.; 6—J.T. Lightning; 7—Scott Summers; 8—Denny Kass; 9—Mohammed Saad; 10—Bastion Booger.

PWA: PWA Champion—The Hater; 1—Tommy Ferrara; 2—Punisher; 3—Randy Gusto; 4—J.B. Trask; 5—Storm Trooper Aaron; 6—Hawk; 7—Charlie Norris; 8—Jerry Lynn; 9—Blake Beverly; 10—Storm Trooper Willie.

PWF: PWF Champion—Italian Stallion; 1—Russian Assassin II; 2—Terry Austin; 3—Austin Steele; 4—Star Ryder; 5—Chris Hamrick; 6—Black Scorpion; 7—Masked Maniac; 8—Flaming Youth; 9—Tyrone Knox; 10—Cruel Connection II.

WWA: WWA Champion—Frank Finnegan; 1—Paul White; 2—Ed Atlas; 3—Gus the Greek; 4—Akita Kaos; 5—Jim McPherson; 6—East L.A.; 7—John Rotten; 8—Jason Headings; 9—Scott The Body; 10—Abbudah Singh.

WWWA: WWWA Champion—Brutus Beefcake; 1—Jack Hammer; 2—Rick Martel; 3—Harley Lewis; 4—S.D. Jones; 5—The Zombie; 6—Glenn Osbourne; 7—Mad Russian; 8—Johnny Rebel; 9—Super Nova; 10—Mr. Haiti.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 20 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans

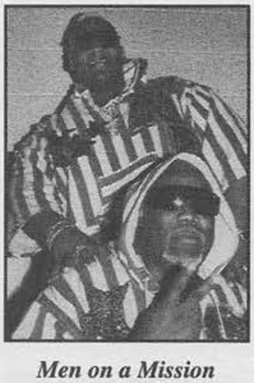
Tag team swan song? At press time, the tag team scene in the WWF was in disarray. At Survivor Series, then-World champs **Shawn Michaels** and **Diesel** had a falling-out. Michaels accidentally kicked his tag team partner during a 10-man tag team match, then went on to throw away his belt in anger before driving away from the arena.

Michaels and Diesel were angry, but at the time there might still have been some hope for the team. That slim chance at reconciliation disappeared three days later, though, when Diesel pinned **Bob Backlund** for the World title in a bout that lasted just eight seconds. He vowed to destroy the "Heartbreak Kid" if he ever dared to set foot in the ring with him.

While Diesel and Michaels' split certainly hurt an already weak tag team crop in the WWF, it did open a window of opportunity for the teams competing regularly in the WWF.

As of this writing, the WWF World tag team title remains vacant.

The next logical question is this: Who deserves to be ranked as the number-one contenders? That brings us to a problem: There aren't that many enough legitimate tag team contenders in the WWF today. Can you envision **The Bushwhackers** as the World tag team champions, walking to the ring with the championship belts in their mouths? Do **Men on a Mission** have the stamina to win the belts and hold on to them for a sustained period of time? **The Headshrinkers** held the belts for four months in 1994, but they lost **Samu**—at least temporarily—and have looked shaky. What about **Well Dunn**? We don't think so, either. The crop is so weak that makeshift teams like **Tatanka** and **Bam Bam Bigelow** are able to have some success.

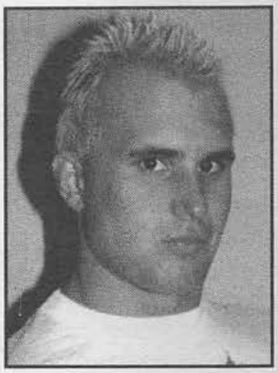


Men on a Mission

For now, we'll go with **The Smokin' Gunns** as number-one contenders simply because they have consistently beaten **The Heavenly Bodies** over the last few months.

The state of tag team wrestling in the WWF—and in wrestling in general—is in danger of getting worse. The top teams, for the most part, are experienced duos like The Bushwhackers. Precious few good, young teams are coming into the WWF these days.

What happened to the tag team boom of the 1980s? During that decade, there was an abundance of teams that had tremendous ability and worked well together. Who could forget the classic battles between The Bushwhackers (then **The Sheepherders**) and **The Fantastics, The Road Warriors** vs. **Ivan** and **Nikita Koloff**, or **The Rock 'n' Roll Express** against **The Midnight Express**? These were the feuds that made tag team wrestling great. The Fantastics, The Bushwhackers, and The Rock 'n' Roll Express are still rolling along but aren't nearly as effective as they used to be. One day, we won't have these duos to rely upon for great team action. What will become of the sport then?



Chris Candido

The NWA returns ... again! **Chris Candido** was crowned the new NWA champion after he defeated **Tracey Smothers** in the final round of a tournament held in November in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Candido, managed by **Tammy Fytch**, made it to the finals by pinning **Al Snow** in the opening round and **Tony Anthony** in the semifinals.

As is our policy with all promotions, we will not list the NWA in the ratings until we are satisfied it has been re-established as an organization that regularly promotes cards, with its champion regularly defending the belt. This doesn't sit too well with the new champion, though.

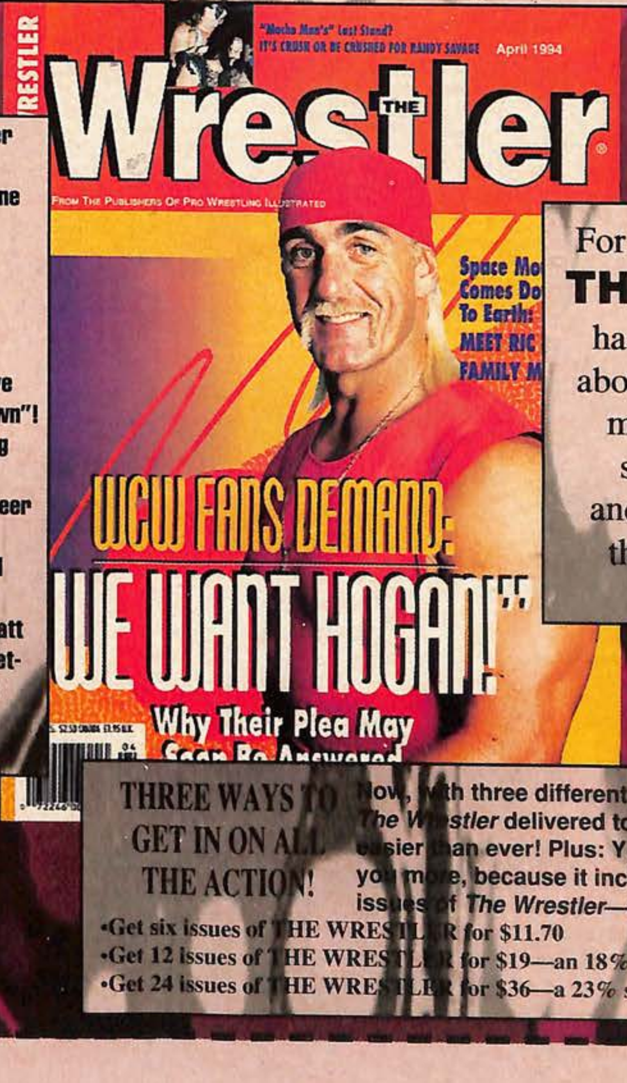
"I am the best world champion there ever was," Candido told us. "I deserve to be recognized. I've beaten all the competitors and I am your champion and I should be treated as such!"

At least he's off to a better start than **Shane Douglas**, who won a tournament for the NWA title in August. He threw the belt down, insisting he didn't want to be champion of a "dead federation."

Your opinion counts! What do you think about the state of tag team wrestling today? Can it be resurrected? Do you think the new NWA should be recognized? If you have any comments about our ratings or this column, send them to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o THE WRESTLER, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □

For More Than 25 Years,

The Most Respected Wrestling Magazine In The World!



- More full-length articles than any other wrestling magazine anywhere!
- An exclusive "Q & A" interview with one of wrestling's top stars!
- "Correspondents Reports" on major matches from around the globe!
- "You Asked Us," in which top stars answer YOUR questions!
- Cheers and jeers to those who deserve them most in "Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down"!
- "Introducing" a dynamic up-and-coming young star!
- A "Spotlight" photo feature on the career of one of the mat's superstars!
- On a rotating bimonthly basis: "Beyond the Squared Circle," featuring candid photos of your favorite stars, and "Matt Brock's Looking Back," in which the veteran reporter examines yesteryear's mat classics!
- All this—and more!—every month!

For nearly three decades, **THE WRESTLER** has kept fans informed about every aspect of the mat sport! Become a subscriber today—and save up to 23% off the newsstand price!

THREE WAYS TO GET IN ON ALL THE ACTION!

Now, with three different ways to subscribe, getting *The Wrestler* delivered to your door each month is easier than ever! Plus: Your subscription price saves you more, because it includes power-packed special issues of *The Wrestler*—at no extra cost!

- Get six issues of THE WRESTLER for $11.70
- Get 12 issues of THE WRESTLER for $19—an 18% savings off the newsstand price
- Get 24 issues of THE WRESTLER for $36—a 23% savings off the newsstand price

Send to:

London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Washington, PA 19034

Yes, I would like to subscribe to THE WRESTLER

- ☐ I am enclosing $11.70 for a six-issue subscription
- ☐ I am enclosing $19 for a 12-issue subscription
- ☐ I am enclosing $36 for a 24-issue subscription

☐ **NEW** ☐ **RENEWAL**

Name ____________________

Address ____________________ Apt. ______

City ____________ State ______ Zip ______

Please indicate method of payment

☐ Check or money order
(enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard # ________________

Expiration date: ___ / ___
MO / YR

Price offer good in U.S. and Canada only. All other countries: $16.50 for six issues ($28.20 airmail), $28.60 for 12 issues ($52 airmail), and $55.20 for 24 issues ($102 airmail). For all orders outside U.S., international money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

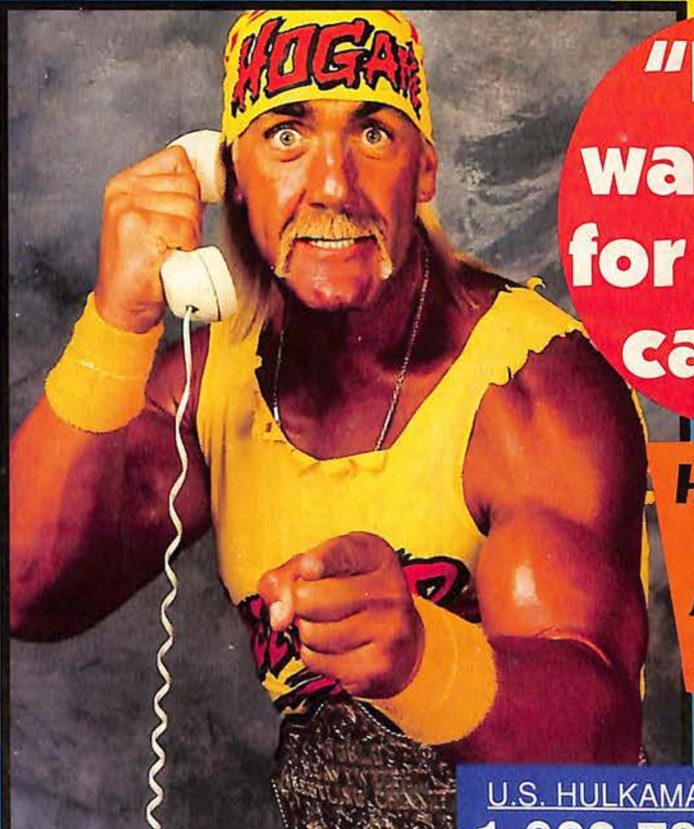
3029/10-94

ATTENTION ALL HULKAMANIACS

IT'S HERE!

THE HULK HOGAN HOTLINE!

Call the Hulk Hogan Hotline *now* and get the latest info straight from the greatest professional wrestler the sport has ever known! Hear the "Hulkster's" daily message, learn the inside information on the sport that only Hulk Hogan can provide, register your votes on vital "Hulkster" topics, and much, much more! Plus: Play "Beat The Hulk" and win a Jimmy Hart photo button, or take the Hulk Hogan Trivia Challenge and win a personally autographed photo of the "Hulkster"!



"I'm waiting for your call!"

HOSTED BY JIMMY HART!

WIN VALUABLE PRIZES!

U.S. HULKAMANIACS CALL:
1-900-786-HULK
(1-900-786-4855)
U.K. HULKAMANIACS CALL:
0891-299-737

CALL TODAY!

This service is available on both touch-tone and rotary-dial phones.

Cost per minute in the United States is $1.49. Cost per minute in the United Kingdom is 39p cheap rate and 49p at all other times, incl. VAT. Kids, get your parents' permission before calling.

DON'T BE LEFT OUT!

2749/08-94

Hulk Hogan, Hulkster, and Hulkamania are trademarks of the Marvel Entertainment Group Inc. licensed exclusively to World Championship Wrestling, Inc.